

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE  
SIX PRINCESSES  
OF *Peacocke (Lucy)*  
BABYLON,

IN THEIR TRAVELS TO THE TEMPLE OF VIRTUE;

AN  
ALLEGORY.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION,  
To her ROYAL HIGHNESS the Princess MARY.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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АДВЕНТУРЕ

СИХ ПРИЧЕСС.

БАБУЛИ.

СИХ ПРИЧЕСС.



А.Н.А. Г.О.О.Я.У.

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[ TO ]

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCESS MARY

MADAM,

IT is with the utmost diffidence I presume to beg  
your Royal Highness will graciously receive the  
humble performance I offer ; which I have been en-  
couraged to print by the fostering hand of a kind  
Providence, which has also led it to your Royal  
Highness.

With all humility and gratitude permit me, Ma-  
dam, to present the following ALLEGORY ; fully  
sensible of its many imperfections, and I fear  
unworthy the great honour it has received.

But

But the many illustrious and amiable virtues which now adorn the BRITISH THRONE, induce me to hope my little invention will not offend.

And, for this permission, may the fountain of all goodness ever send down its choicest blessings on the Royal House of BRUNSWICK, to the latest posterity.

I beg leave to subscribe myself,

M A D A M ,

Y O U R R O Y A L H I G H N E S S ' S

M O S T O B E D I E N T , G R A T E F U L ,

A N D D E V O T E D ,

H U M B L E S E R V A N T ,

*Lambeth,*  
*June, 1785.*

L U C Y P E A C O C K .

T H E

THE Author of the following pages begs  
 to acknowledge with thanks to those  
 Noble and generous Subscribers, who have honoured  
 with their names her attempt at Allegory: By  
 their ready attention to the kind solicitations of  
 some very worthy and respectable characters she has  
 been enabled to venture on its publication; having,  
 by their benevolent patronage, succeeded beyond  
 her most sanguine expectations.

She has now only to lament her want of ability  
 for such an undertaking. A perusal of SPENCER'S  
 FAIRY QUEEN, wherein he has so beautifully de-  
 scribed the Passions, first suggested to *her* mind the  
 idea of personifying them in a more familiar lan-  
 guage,

guage, by painting the depravities of the human heart in such a manner, as might give an early impression of Virtue to young minds; and, while they amuse, might excite reflection.

## T H E

## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

IN former times there reigned over Babylon a certain King and Queen, no less renowned for their mercy and justice, than for the vast dominions they possessed; but a war happening with a neighbouring Prince, the Babylonians were defeated, and the unfortunate Monarch obliged to fly for shelter to a foreign kingdom, whilst his amiable Queen took refuge, with her young family (consisting of six lovely girls), in a lonely desert, that lay at a great distance from the city. One day, as she was sitting on the sea-shore, bathed in tears, and surrounded by her infant daughters, she was accosted by a decrepit old Woman, with a bundle of sticks under her arm: "What do you weep for, my good mistress?" (said she) "there are few evils but time and patience will surmount."—"Alas! (replied the Queen) my misery is past human relief, death is the only cure I can hope for, and even then my poor children must be left to perish in

" these deserts." " Don't despair, (returned the old wo-  
 " man) Heaven, like a good parent, corrects, but never aban-  
 " dons, its children: Behold, I am sent to be your pro-  
 " tector." " I thank you, my good mother, for your kind  
 " intentions, (said the Queen, smiling in the midst of her  
 " grief) but, alas! thou can't afford but a miserable pro-  
 " tection." " You must not always judge from appear-  
 " ances, (again replied the hag) a plain and poor garment  
 " often conceals more valuable qualities than the richest  
 " embroidery."

While she was speaking these last words, the Queen, to  
 her inexpressible surprise, observed her face (which was  
 before covered with the wrinkles of age and infirmity)  
 brighten into the most beautiful aspect; the deformity of her  
 person gradually decreased; and she now, instead of a de-  
 crepit hag, beheld a delicate young Lady, clothed in a white  
 garment that flowed gracefully below her feet. " Fear no-  
 " thing, (said this charming figure) I am the Fairy Benigna,  
 " whom your sufferings have drawn from Fairy-land: I  
 " have consulted the Oracle, which declares you doomed to  
 " eternal exile, unless raised again to empire by the virtues  
 " of your children. Now, though it is out of my power  
 " entirely to overrule Fate, I can, in some measure, counter-  
 " act it: Consent, therefore, to resign your children to my  
 " direction,

" direction, and patiently, with your husband, wait till the  
 " decrees of the Oracle are fulfilled. He is now in an island  
 " not far distant, whither, if you consent, my art shall in-  
 " stantly transport you."

The Queen fell on her knees, in order to express her gratitude and resignation to the will of Benigna, who, touching her with a wand she held in her hand, the Queen was immediately conveyed to her husband in the island which had been foretold. The Fairy then again waving her wand, an elegant gold chariot appeared, drawn by eight snow-white swans, in which seating herself, with the six Princesses, they mounted the air, and, in a short time, losing sight of the deserts of Babylon, arrived at a spacious grotto. — It was situated in the midst of a thick wood, and covered with a vine, whose purple clusters hung in full luxuriance round; whilst the harmony of birds, intermixed with the lulling sounds of several waterfalls, made it the most delightful of abodes. Here the Fairy caused her little company to alight, and, having refreshed them with a variety of fruits, conducted them to rest in the inward part of the grotto.

In this solitude the good Benigna made it her chief study to instruct them in the most useful and entertaining parts of learning, at the same time taking care to instil into their minds

the love of virtue. Nor were diversions wanting to render their lives agreeable ; they danced, sung, played on their lutes, and often, equipped with a bow and arrows, solaced themselves with the pleasures of the chace.

Thus some years elapsed in the greatest tranquility ; they neither knew, nor wished for, other society than that of the benevolent Fairy, or for amusements superior to those their Grotto afforded : But, alas ! the time was now drawing nigh, when they must bid adieu to these serene enjoyments, and enter on a different scene of action.

One day the Fairy summoned them to her, and, bidding them give attention to what she was about to say, addressed them in the following words :—“ You have now lived, my “ dear children, several years in this solitude, insensible of “ the great designs for which you were brought hither. But, “ before I proceed further on this subject, it is necessary to “ inform you, that the fate of your parents is so strongly “ connected and bound up in yours, that it is in your power, “ by your fortitude and virtue, to restore them again to em- “ pire and dominion, or, by your mutability and vice, to “ bring them with shame and misery to the grave.---Know “ then, that there are *Six Wonders* lie hid in nature, ordained “ as a trial of your constancy ; they are attended with innu- “ merable

“ merable perils, but when once possessed, and kept among  
 “ you, will render you more powerful than the most absolute  
 “ monarch.

“ The first (said she, addressing the eldest Princess) is the  
 “ *Distaff of Industry*; an inestimable treasure! for, by apply-  
 “ ing one end of it to your right hand, you are instantly put  
 “ in possession of the thing you desire. This, (continued she)  
 “ Miranda, is allotted for your pursuit.

“ The next, (said she) Florissa, must be your care: *A*  
 “ *Bottle of Water*, taken from the River of Good-nature; no  
 “ less valuable than the Distaff, being endowed with the  
 “ power of reconciling all differences; one draught uniting  
 “ the most bitter enemies: And it has also this peculiar qua-  
 “ lity, that, when once attained, it can never be exhausted,  
 “ since the more it is used, the more it continues to increase.

“ The *Spear of Truth* is the next, and possesses even su-  
 “ perior virtues to the former, having the power of over-  
 “ coming all evil enchantments. Provided you keep the  
 “ straight road, you need not fear any thing; but, should  
 “ you once turn aside, the dangers are so numerous as to  
 “ require the greatest experience and fortitude to surmount.  
 “ Be this your pursuit, Clementina.

“ The

“ The Mantle of Meekness is the fourth, which confers  
 “ a degree of immortality on the possessor: She who is for-  
 “ tunate enough to obtain it immediately becomes beautiful  
 “ as an angel, and, though she should live to the most ex-  
 “ treme age, will still continue to wear the full bloom of  
 “ youth on her countenance. May your best endeavours,  
 “ my dear Bonnetta, not be wanting to acquire so great an  
 “ ornament!

“ The fifth (said she) is the *Magnet of True Generosity* :-  
 “ Whosoever is possessed of it is endowed with the power  
 “ of transferring that pleasure they possess to another, which,  
 “ at the same time, increases it in themselves. This, my dear  
 “ Orinda, is the reward held up to you.

“ Last of all comes the *White Wand of Contentment*,  
 “ (not less desirable than the rest) possessing the pleasing  
 “ power of rendering the most disagreeable objects in nature  
 “ agreeable. Let it be your care, Matilda, to return with  
 “ this invaluable treasure!”

The Fairy then embraced them, and, after giving them  
 some necessary directions concerning the roads they were to  
 take, and advice for their future conduct, dismissed them  
 with these words :

“ Remember,

“ Remember, my children, that on the success of this  
“ journey depends the happiness or misery of your lives ; if  
“ you succeed, peace and prosperity attend you ; but, should  
“ you fail, once more remember, that you lose my protection  
“ for ever, and bring shame and infamy on those who gave  
“ you birth.”

The Princesses then departed, promising to keep the words  
of the good Benigna in their minds ; and, after embracing  
each other, pursued their way, each taking the road pre-  
scribed by the Fairy.

How they succeeded, and what adventures they met with,  
will be the subject of the ensuing pages. +

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gripz dros zolls tirs zileon zileon ai vugzitE bong zilz 10  
zilz bhot cik gdimetj dozupb nakt zileon i flodz

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THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE  
PRINCESS MIRANDA.

THIS Princess, who set out in search of the wonderful *Distaff of Industry*, pursued her way for some time unmolested; when, on a sudden, she heard a voice, not far distant, in a peremptory tone commanding her to stop.—But, on turning round, imagine her horror, when she perceived a monstrous Giant within a few paces of her. She had neither time or inclination to contemplate his figure; for, seizing her by the arm, he led her in triumph to a large Castle, where he delivered her to the care of an old Woman, equal in stature with himself. The Giantess, putting on her spectacles, eyed Miranda attentively; and then,

having carried her to a deep dungeon, left her, and went to see after her household affairs.

Here the poor Princess wept and prayed night and day, expecting to be devoured by the Giant and his companions.— A hard situation for her, who had been used to every indulgence in the grotto of the good Benigna, whose justice she now began to arraign, for dooming her to an enterprise which, at the very first onset, appeared likely to prove so fatal to her.

One evening, as she was indulging these melancholy reflections, happening to cast her eyes downwards, she, from a light which gleamed through a crevice, discerned a flat white stone, with a brass ring fixed in the center; and, taking hold of it, found the stone loose; then, pulling with all her strength, she with much difficulty raised it, and discovered underneath it a flight of stone steps: This animated her with a dawn of hope: She flattered herself they might lead to some secret way from the Castle, and accordingly descended with great alacrity. Having continued her way through a long dark passage, she at last perceived daylight, though at a great distance; but, making all possible speed, to her inexpressible joy, soon found herself at the sea-side.— She stopped a moment to recover breath, and again ran, with all the swiftness she was mistress of, thinking to escape

to some place of safety, where she might conceal herself; well knowing, that if once the Giant, whose name was Impatience, should pursue her, there was but little chance of preserving herself a second time.

She had not proceeded far, full of these reflections, before she heard the voice of her dreadful enemy behind her. This added double speed to her flight; and she was just sheltered in a little house, that stood by the way-side, as the Giant overtook her. Now it is necessary to acquaint the reader, that the house belonged to an old Fairy, called Delay. This the Giant very well knew, and was sensible, when he saw the Princess enter there, he could have nothing further to do with her; he therefore immediately departed, in pursuit of some other prey.

As for poor Miranda, she threw herself on a chair, half dead with the fright, scarce believing but that she was already in the arms of the dreadful Giant, till the Fairy, with many kind speeches, convinced her that, while she was in her jurisdiction, she was entirely beyond his reach; and persuaded her to amuse herself in the gardens which surrounded her habitation. At first Miranda excused herself, saying that she was bound on a particular expedition—the search after the *Distaff of Industry*: “ Well, (said the Fairy) I am determined

"you shall stay with me to-night:"—To which Miranda consenting, they went into the garden.

"You must certainly (said the Fairy) be exceedingly weary after the fatigue you have undergone; let me, therefore, persuade you to refresh yourself, by bathing in the stream that bounds my garden; it is called the *River of Ease*, and is endowed with the most invigorating quality." Miranda was preparing to follow the advice of her companion, when she heard a soft voice, resembling that of Benigna, repeat these words :

" Virtue, if you mean to save,  
" Bathe not in the treach'rous wave."

This staggered her resolution, and she hesitated; but, the Fairy again entreating her, she was proceeding to undress herself, when she distinctly heard the following words :

" Let not gilded words allure ;  
" Vice's charms can ne'er endure ;  
" Should you once the stream invade,  
" Farewell—lost, deluded Maid."

The Princess now felt a superior spirit animate her soul; and she turned round, attempting to fly; but Delay caught hold of her, saying "Consent to abide with me, and you  
" shall

" shall enjoy all the pleasures it is in my power so plentifully  
 " to bestow.—I am the Fairy Delay ; and, to convince you  
 " of the superiority of my art, behold a proof of it." She  
 then struck herself with a wand, and Miranda instantly be-  
 held her changed into a Dormouse,—from a Dormouse to a  
 Dromedary,—and, lastly, from a Dromedary to her own  
 shape again. This, so far from inducing the Princess to stay,  
 served only to increase her horror and disgust ; which the  
 Fairy perceiving, when she found no entreaties would prevail,  
 " Wretch (said she) receive the punishment due to your in-  
 " gratitude." And, sprinkling her with some water from  
 the *Lake of Slöth*, which was before by her falsely called  
 the *River of Ease*, the Princess instantly felt herself transfixed  
 to the place where she stood : her joints stiffened ; her blood  
 stagnated ; and she now retained no other symptom of a  
 living being, than the power of reflection, which the wicked  
 Fairy had still left to augment her misery ; otherwise, she had  
 by her art transformed her to a Statue.

In this situation the poor Princess remained many months ;  
 when one day a young Prince, who resided on the opposite  
 side of the lake, riding that way, was so enamoured with the  
 beauty of this Statue, that he became deeply in love with it ;  
 and secretly signed, till at length he fell dangerously sick.—  
 The King and Queen, his parents, who doated on him to

excess,

excess, with much importunity, discovered the true cause of his malady; which done, they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the city, that any one who could produce a damsel equal in beauty to the statue, should be honoured with the highest post in the kingdom; and that the damsel, how low and mean soever her condition, should immediately be married to the King's son. This proclamation was no sooner issued, than the most beauteous virgins, from all parts, were assembled, and arranged before the Prince; but not any of them appeared, in his eye, comparable with the charming Statue.

The King and Queen, willing to try every expedient to preserve their son, summoned a council of Fairies; but they agreed with one consent, that the Statue was enchanted in the garden of Delay, and that, unless it could be animated, no relief could be administered to the sick Prince. This was almost impossible; it being against the laws of Fairy-land for one Fairy to enter the territories of another, and destroy an enchantment performed in her jurisdiction.

Thus all hope seemed vain, and the royal pair were left in the deepest sorrow: but relief was not so far off as they imagined. There was a little deaf and dumb Dwarf, named Diligence, who had been bred for some years in the palace, the

the particular favourite of the Prince. This Dwarf no sooner understood that the Statue was enchanted by the Fairy Delay, than he made signs for pen, ink and paper ; by which he let the King and Queen know, that they had no further occasion for uneasiness ; and, without staying to explain any thing, instantly repaired to the *Lake of Sloth*.

At first he was somewhat embarrassed, not knowing in what manner to cross it ; but presently recollecting himself, he pulled up some rushes - that grew by the side, and in a few hours, with great ingenuity, formed a boat large enough to hold two people, which quickly landed him on that side where the beautiful Statue stood. He had no sooner touched it, than, by virtue of a gift formerly bestowed on him, the charm broke ; and the Princess finding herself once more restored to speech and motion, overjoyed, followed her conductor ; who, handing her into his boat, soon introduced her to the King and Queen.

They scarce knew which to caref most, Miranda or the Dwarf ; and the Prince also, though extremely weak and low, raised himself to testify his joy on their arrival. From that day the Prince began to recover, and in a short time was able to walk about the palace, and enjoy the company of his beloved Miranda ; but she absolutely refused to listen to any addresses,

till

till she had performed the journey appointed by Benigna; notwithstanding the amiable manners of the Prince, added to the obligation she was under to his family, had very much won her affection. She therefore in a few days set forward, attended by the little deaf and dumb Dwarf, lest she should again stand in need of his assistance; after promising to return there, and suffer the Prince to accompany her to Benigna, in order to gain her consent to their union.

The Princess had not walked far with her little companion, when they came to a costly building, which seemed to belong to some person of distinction; but it surprised her to observe, that although the Castle looked loaded with finery, the gardens and grounds which surrounded it appeared totally uncultivated and wild. However she had an inclination to go in and rest herself, and was pushing open a little gate for that purpose, when the Dwarf pulled her by the sleeve, and made signs that she should not enter; but Miranda gave little attention to him, and seeing several young men and women reposing themselves on the grass, was attempting to enter a second time; when *Diligence*, taking her by the hand, led her, with much reluctance, to the front of the Castle, and pointed to a large arch, on which was written in capital letters, *The Castle of Idleness*. Through this arch was a long avenue, at the end of which the Princess descried a little, low, mean building, but

ill suited to the splendor that sparkled on the other parts; over the door was written, likewise in capitals, *The House of Ignorance.*

Notwithstanding this, the Princess felt a strong desire to enter, being much fatigued with her journey; and stood debating whether she should follow her own inclination, or the advice of her friend the Dwarf; when she was accosted by a young Female, who told her she would introduce her to the Lady of the Mansion, who was a very powerful Fairy, and had always apartments ready to accommodate weary travellers. Miranda did not possess resolution to withstand this kind offer, and followed her conductress into the Castle; leaving poor Diligence in the utmost concern for her imprudence, he being too wise to attend her.

Idleness, one of the most wicked Fairies who presided in that part of the country, was reclined on a downy sofa, and surrounded by a numerous train of attendants. Some of them were employed in fanning her; others in dancing, singing, or relating some entertaining tale, to pass away her hours. She received the Princess very cordially, and introduced her to the acquaintance of her son Ignorance, who resided in the building beforementioned. He appeared not very young; his person awkward, and manner ungraceful:

He approached the Princess with a yellow wand in his hand, and, with the ease of a familiar friend, gave her a gentle rap on her head. To this uncouth salute the Princess gave little attention; but, conversing generally with the company here, she found such an insipidity in their conversation, that her soul thirsted for a repetition of those lessons of wisdom she had heard from the good Benigna; and, as a sort of weariness had been the chief cause of her accepting the invitation, she determined to shorten her visit.

Accordingly she arose with the dawn: The sun was just mounting the bright clouds of the east, and the birds chanting their early congratulations to the new day, when Miranda stole gently down stairs, to pursue her journey; but, thinking it a mark of rudeness to leave no respectful notice of her departure, she searched the apartments usually occupied by the domestics; but finding no one to receive her message, and as the business she was going on was inconsistent with waste of time, she opened the door and continued her journey.

She had walked but a few paces before she was accosted by a parcel of ragged people, with brooms and baskets at their sides, who solicited her charity, telling her they were going to the *Castle of Idleness*, to sweep up the pantries and clean

clean the shuffle-boards. The Princess heard them with a smile, and, giving a small sum amongst them, passed on; but she had no sooner got into the high road, than a number of passengers gathered round her, crying, "The beast, the "beast!" and, gazing on her with evident marks of surprise and contempt, some laughed, others saluted her with stones and dirt, and some few shrugged up their shoulders, in pity of her miserable condition. Astonished and terrified at this unaccountable treatment, she attempted to speak, and demand the cause of it; but she no sooner opened her lips, than immoderate bursts of laughter echoed universally from side to side, which still added to her embarrassment.

In this mortifying distress she continued, till, to her no small comfort, she perceived her old friend the Dwarf. He was accompanied by a beautiful young Fairy, who, advancing to the Princess, took her by the hand, and, having led her from the crowd, presented her with a looking-glass, bidding her view herself; but judge the emotions that crowded on the soul of Miranda, when she discovered her head and face exactly to resemble that of an Ass. She turned round, attempting to express her grief and astonishment; but, to complete her confusion, she now found she was incapable of articulating any sounds but those of the animal she represented.

Despair gained possession of her breast, and she was earnestly wishing an end to her existence, when the Fairy thus addressed her : “ You now see (said she) to what dangers “ you have exposed yourself, by neglecting the advice of “ your friend the Dwarf. It is Ignorance, whose powerful “ wand has thus transformed you ; nor can any, except “ Diligence and myself, named Perseverance, surmount the “ enchantment. Happy are you to possess such friends ; “ otherwise, the form you now wear would pursue you to “ the latest hour of mortality.”

She then told her the glass, in which she discovered her deformity, was the *Mirror of Self-conviction* ; and, presenting a wand she held in her hand to Diligence, made signs that he should touch the Princess with it, which he had no sooner done, than the enchantment vanished, and she was restored to her natural form and understanding. After this the Fairy, bidding her be more careful for the future, left her to continue her journey, accompanied by her little deaf and dumb Friend.

Miranda now no longer refused to follow the careful Dwarf ; who, taking a road directly opposite to that where the *Castle of Idleness* stood, presently arrived at the foot of the *Durable Mountain*, at the top of which, guarded by an active, wise Magician, lay the *wonderful Distaaff*.

The Princess, overjoyed to have arrived, as she fancied, so nigh her journey's end, began to ascend with great vigour; but soon found it no easy matter, the Mountain being extremely rugged, and, in many parts, almost perpendicular. After labouring therefore some time, and perceiving she gained little ground, she sat down to rest; and in the mean while to consider, whether the *Distaff* was, in reality, worth the trouble that seemed to attend the obtaining it. "What (said she to herself) have I to do with it? If I return to the Prince, he will receive me with open arms; and I shall, doubtless, become Queen over that great city. Of what use then will the *Distaff* be to me; since I shall have it in my power to command every thing I can desire?"

With these ideas she was just rising to return, when it occurred to her to take one thought on the other side of the question, "I shall for ever lose the protection of my dear Benigna, (said she) that is beyond doubt; and the Prince, likewise, seeing me so fickle in the enterprise I have undertaken, may despise and abandon me: Her words will then indeed be fulfilled,—I shall bring shame and infamy—."

She was going on with these reflections, when Diligence, who had all this time been extremely dissatisfied at her loitering,

tering, now became quite outrageous; and, taking hold of her arm, partly by force and partly by looks of entreaty, got her a considerable way up the Mountain; and at length, after much labour and perplexity, led her to the summit, where she demanded the *Distaff*.

The watchful Magician looked excessively sullen and morose, till he perceived her in company with Diligence, of whom he had some knowledge, when his countenance brightened, and, after a short pause, said, "I perceive Be-  
" nigna has unfolded to you the powers of the wonderful  
" *Distaff of Industry*. I present you with it; be you its pro-  
" tectress, and it will amply repay your attention." The Magician then glanced a smile of complacency on Diligence, and disappeared.

The first trial the Princess made of her new prize, was for the use of her good friend the Dwarf, without whose assistance it would have been impossible to have obtained it; accordingly, applying it to the palm of her right hand, and at the same time wishing that he might be endowed with speech and hearing, the Dwarf felt his ears opened, and his tongue capable of expressing his gratitude to Miranda; who again applying it to her hand, they found themselves at the foot of the Mountain, where a chariot waited, ready to

to convey them back to the Palace. Whilst they were on their way, the Princess, in order to pass the time agreeably, requested that Diligence would relate the history of his life; who, never so happy as when he could oblige, immediately began in the following words.

## The HISTORY of DILIGENCE,

### The DEAF and DUMB DWARF.

“ YOU will doubtless be surprised, Madam, (said the little Dwarf, smiling) to hear that, notwithstanding my diminutive size, my parents were Giants; yet it is no more strange than true. I was their only offspring, though I enjoyed no great share in their affections; owing, most probably, to the smallness of my stature, which I imagine they considered would unfit me for lofty achievements; not reflecting, that the small link is a part of the large chain. However it was, they considered me as a disgrace to their family; employed me in the most menial offices, such as cutting of faggots, cooking their victuals, bucking their linen, &c. beating me unmercifully on committing the least fault.

“ It happened one day that I was carrying a load of  
 “ meat bigger than myself, when a large eagle, allured by  
 “ the smell, darted down, and, seizing me and the meat in  
 “ her talons, flew to her nest, at the top of a very high  
 “ rock, and then took another flight in quest of more  
 “ prey.

“ I was dreadfully frightened at my situation ; thinking,  
 “ not without reason, that the old eagles, finding me an  
 “ incumbrance, would either dash my brains out against the  
 “ rocks, or peck me to pieces for food for their young.  
 “ But I had little time for lamentation ; it was my business,  
 “ if possible, to extricate myself from the danger that  
 “ threatened me. Accordingly I set about surveying the  
 “ rock, in order to descend ; but found it an utter impos-  
 “ sibility, one side hanging over the sea, and the other being  
 “ an exact perpendicular.

“ The following stratagem therefore, although attended  
 “ with great hazard, alone seemed to promise the least pro-  
 “ bability of escaping. I had, by good fortune, in my  
 “ pocket a large knife, with which I used to cut wood in  
 “ the forest. Armed with this, I set myself in a posture of  
 “ defence, and waited in the nest till the return of the old  
 “ eagle, who had no sooner alighted, than, seizing her by  
 “ the

" the throat with all the strength I possessed, I, at one leap,  
 " sprang on her back; and, notwithstanding her endeavours  
 " to shake me off, still kept my station. The creature, en-  
 " raged at finding her efforts vain, rose in the air, and at-  
 " tempted to dash me in pieces, by letting me fall; but I  
 " continued unhurt, never quitting my hold till she settled  
 " on the top of a tree, when with one hand I run my knife  
 " into her heart, and with the other laid hold on one of the  
 " branches, to prevent my fall with her.

" My enemy was no sooner dead, than I descended from  
 " the tree, and had the satisfaction of finding myself once  
 " more on flat ground, though, as I conjectured, at a con-  
 " siderable distance from home.—This gave me little un-  
 " easiness, as I determined never to return to my parents,  
 " whose unkind treatment made me prefer any situation,  
 " rather than their society.

" I wandered about some time, hoping to discover some  
 " place where I might take up my abode, when I came to  
 " a large Cave. I was just entering, but was stopped  
 " by a deep sigh, which proceeded from the mouth of it;  
 " and, listening a few minutes, heard a soft voice repeat  
 " these words:—" Wretch that I am! What does my power

“ avail, but for the wicked to exult over?”—As this sentence ended, I went into the Cavern ; but how was I astonished to find that the words I had just heard proceeded from the mouth of a milk-white Doe, chained to the side of a large Rock.

“ She told me she was enchanted ; but was fully persuaded the Fates had decreed me to be her deliverer, and entreated me to release her ; which, she said, could only be effected by repeating certain words which she then told me, and by striking the Rock with a magic wand that lay concealed at a small distance from thence.

“ My breast glowed with reanimated fire. I immediately proceeded to execute the request of the Captive Doe, and striking the Rock as directed, a large spark of fire, accompanied with a tremendous groan, issued from it, and listening with astonishment, I heard a voice repeat —“ Alas! alas! the *Castle of Idleness* will be destroyed : A *Spark of Industry* has escaped our vigilance, and will discover the *Distaff*”—The meaning of these words I had scarce time to consider, when the Rock disappeared, and, instead of a white Doe, a lovely young Fairy, with a most expressive countenance, stood before me;

“ me ; the same who released you from the enchantment of  
 “ Ignorance.

“ She was proceeding to thank me for breaking the charm,  
 “ when an old Fairy rushed from behind us; who, darting  
 “ a look of fury and indignation at me;—“ From hence-  
 “ forth, (said she) for your ill-placed curiosity, be *deaf* and  
 “ *dumb*.”—“ No ; (replied the young Fairy, interrupting  
 “ her) though I cannot destroy your evil charm, I will, in  
 “ part, counteract it. Be deaf and dumb (said she, striking  
 “ me with her wand) till the *Distaff of Industry* be brought  
 “ from the *Durable Mountain*.”—After she had pronounced  
 “ these words, the wicked Fairy, overcome with rage and  
 “ disappointment, vanished. ~~X~~

“ Now, whilst I was in company with the good Fairy, the  
 “ evil charm, by which I was rendered deaf and dumb, did  
 “ not take effect; and she spoke to me, as nearly as I can  
 “ remember, in the following words:—“ I am (said she)  
 “ the Fairy Perseverance, renowned for the superiority of  
 “ my skill in good deeds ; that old Fairy has always been  
 “ my inveterate enemy. Her name is Delay; one of the  
 “ oldest of our Race: Whatever good I do, she is sure, if  
 “ possible, to destroy ; constantly laying in wait for all  
 “ opportunities to wreak her malice on me ; and it is not

" long since a circumstance happened that gave full scope  
 " to it. There is a law subsisting in Fairy-land, by which  
 " we are all obliged, one day in the year, to lay down our  
 " art, and become subject to the inconveniences and disasters  
 " of mortality. A few days ago it happened to be my  
 " turn, and I was walking, not far from this place, entirely  
 " divested of all Power, when Delay met me, who, over-  
 " joyed at finding me incapable of withstanding her Art,  
 " amply satisfied her malice, by confining me to the Rock  
 " in the form of a Doe; in which situation I remained, till,  
 " by your assistance, I regained my former condition. I  
 " am grieved I cannot destroy the charm imposed on you  
 " by Delay, and would fain, in some measure, recompense  
 " the service you have done me: Chuse, therefore, any  
 " Gift it is permitted me to bestow, and I will confer it on  
 " you."—Here the charming Fairy ended, and waited my  
 " reply.

" I felt a just indignation against the wicked Delay, and  
 " secretly wished to be revenged for the punishment she had  
 " inflicted on me. I therefore desired Perseverance to en-  
 " dow me with the power of overruling her enchantments,  
 " who granted my request, and disappeared; when I in-  
 " stantly became *deaf* and *dumb*, but possessed of the Gift I  
 " demanded.

" I took

“ I took up my abode in a Wood, not far distant from the  
 “ dwelling of Delay, where I continually released those who  
 “ were held by her enchantment; till one day the Prince  
 “ Osymandyas, as he rode from hunting, discovered and  
 “ carried me to the Palace. His amiable manners so at-  
 “ tached me to him, that I continued there till sent to ac-  
 “ company you in pursuit of the *Distaff*.”

The Dwarf finished his entertaining narrative as they were passing the *Castle of Idleness*. “ Now, Madam, (said he) this truly valuable *Distaff* shall discover the instability of those gratifications, which are encouraged by the detestable enchantment of Idleness.” Saying this, he sprang from the Carriage, and, taking the Princess by the hand, entered the Castle. The Fairy, as usual, was surrounded by company, her son Ignorance standing by her; whose presence rather discomposed Miranda, she being fearful lest he should again honour her with those marks of distinction, from which Diligence and his friend Perseverance had so lately freed her; but the Dwarf had no sooner applied the *Distaff* to his hand, than Idleness and Ignorance, (who were now entirely disarmed of their power) together with their attendants, vanished; and the Castle was instantly shivered to atoms.

The young Female, who first introduced the Princess to the Castle, only remained, and on whom an astonishing transformation took place; for she no longer appeared young and beautiful, but discovered herself to be no other than the old Fairy Delay.—“ Hold, inhuman monster, (said she to “ to the Dwarf) nor strive, by that destructive *Distaff* to “ annihilate thy mother. The time is come that thou must “ be fully acquainted with the circumstances of thy birth. “ Conduct me, therefore, to some place of security, where “ I may at leisure unfold that secret, Fate will no longer per- “ mit me to conceal.”—These mysterious words were no sooner pronounced, than Diligence, who till now stood fixed to the place with surprise, accompanied by the Princess, led Delay to a little copse hard by, where, being seated, she began in the following manner. X

## The HISTORY of the FAIRY DELAY.

“ BEFORE I enter on those particulars which imme-  
“ diately relate to your birth, I shall call to mind some events,  
“ which, although at first they may appear trivial, are never-  
“ theless of no small consequence in the narrative I am go-  
“ ing

" ing to relate. Know then, that I am the Daughter of Idleness, whose Power you have recently destroyed. Her Castle was formerly occupied by a mighty Monarch, the glory of whose fame was blazoned to the most distant parts; but what added to his greatness was, that he owned that very *Distaff* which the Princess Miranda is now in possession of. He acquired it through the assistance of a wise Magician, the instructor of his youth, whose name was Prudence; who with infinite labour dis-covered and brought it from a certain enchanted Temple.

" Possessed of that treasure, the King soon became one of the most powerful Monarchs; his Dominions extended, and his People were happy: But this Glory very shortly gave place to a scene of perplexity and misfortune. It happened one day, as he was riding out, that he discovered a young Nymph, whose beauty so attracted him, that he became passionately in love with her; but, doubtless, it will raise your admiration, when I tell you it was Idleness, whose personal charms made this sudden impression on the King: Yet, incredible as to you it may seem, he was so enamoured, that he prevailed with her to be his Queen.

" Now

“ Now perhaps it may appear strange, that Idleness, being a Fairy, should so readily agree to a union with Mortality; this probably might not have happened, had she not had *deep* designs to accomplish. You must know, that, many years before, the Oracle had declared, that, on a certain day, the *Distaff of Industry* should put an end to her Power.—It was, therefore, no sooner brought from the Temple, and in possession of the King, than her breast was filled with anxiety; she considered her power as every instant in danger of destruction, and determined to leave no stratagem untried to get the *Distaff* from him.

“ Accordingly, seeing him alone, and separated from his faithful monitor Prudence, she thought no opportunity could be more convenient to put her design in execution. To this end, assuming an artificial beauty, she threw herself in his way, and had the satisfaction to find that her arts were not unsuccessful. At first she put on an air of disdain; till, perceiving she had sufficiently captivated the deluded Monarch, she assured him, that there was only one way by which she could ever be prevailed with to consent to so ignominious an union; this was, by his foregoing all claim to the *Distaff of Industry*.

“ The

" The King at first objected to the proposal ; representing  
 " to her, that the welfare of his People depended on his  
 " keeping it in his own possession ; but finding she would  
 " listen to no other terms, the infatuated Monarch, over-  
 " come by the violence of his passion, consented ; and re-  
 " signed the *Distaff* to Idleness, who instantly sunk it in  
 " the *Lake of Sloth*, by which they were standing ; she then  
 " secured it with a number of charms, and returned to the  
 " habitation of her new Lord, who, enraptured with his  
 " Bride, entirely submitted to her the direction of the Em-  
 " pire, which she did not fail to render sensible of her  
 " power,—Famine, Pestilence, and Disease, continually,  
 " by her influence, infesting the provinces.

" During this time, my Brother Ignorance and Myself  
 " were born ; but my Father soon after died, leaving the  
 " Kingdom to the joint government of my Mother, Bro-  
 " ther, and Myself. We reigned unmolested some years ;  
 " when a mighty Giant, named Impatience, commenced a  
 " bloody war against us, which continued long without  
 " success on either side ; for the Giant being descended  
 " from a race of Enchanters, the art of my Mother had no  
 " power to subdue him ; therefore arms alone could decide  
 " the difference : Thus War and Desolation threatened

“ both parties ; each being determined never to yield.  
 “ The Troops of Impatience, indeed, frequently destroyed  
 “ those of my Mother Idleness ; but then they generally  
 “ fell into the snares prepared by the armies over which  
 “ I presided. ~~X~~

“ Things were in this situation, when the People petitioned that the Magician Prudence, who had fled from  
 “ the Palace on the first entrance of Idleness, my Mother,  
 “ might be admitted as a Mediator. This was agreed to,  
 “ and the Magician sent for, who proposed that a Peace  
 “ should be concluded ; and cemented by a marriage be-  
 “ tween Myself and Impatience. This proposal was at  
 “ first by no means relished ; for the natural aversion we  
 “ retained to each other was so great, that it was feared  
 “ fatal consequences might be produced from such an  
 “ union : But, in order to obviate this objection, the Ma-  
 “ gician set to work, and framed an enchanted Cord, of  
 “ such a peculiar texture, that, whilst it remained unbroken,  
 “ no mischief could ensue ; it was called the *Golden Cord*  
 “ of Forbearance.

“ In a little time, seeing no other remedy, we followed  
 “ the advice of Prudence ; and, by the assistance of the  
 “ enchanted

" enchanted Cord, lived many years in domestic cordiality;  
 " in which time You was born, whom we mutually agreed  
 " to call Diligence: But the year after a sudden change  
 " took place; for one day Impatience, in a fit of choler,  
 " seized the Golden Chord, on which alone our agreement  
 " depended, and broke it asunder. The instant it was se-  
 " vered, our old animosity returned, if possible, more vio-  
 " lent than before; and extended even to You, our com-  
 " mon offspring, whom we mutually determined to abandon  
 " and disown. We, therefore, immediately parted, fully  
 " resolved to live entire strangers to, nor ever more inter-  
 " fere in, each other's government. We left You in a fo-  
 " rest, to the mercy of the first traveller who should pass;  
 " and, fortunately for you, you were taken up and adopted  
 " by a Giant and Giantess; of the race of your Father.  
 " For my part, I repaired to the *Lake of Sloth*, at the side  
 " of which I took up my abode; and exercised the power  
 " of Enchantment I inherited from my Mother, of which  
 " the Princess Miranda felt a severe proof.

" But whilst I was thus occupied, Prudence, the Magician,  
 " was by no means unemployed; his imagination ran wholly  
 " on recovering the *Distaff of Industry* from the *Lake of Sloth*.  
 " His efforts had hitherto proved unsuccessful; the charms

" with which my Mother had secured it being too strong  
 " easily to be overruled : But he had now discovered, that  
 " it could never be raised, unless Diligence, the Son of Im-  
 " patience and Delay, could be found ; but here was an-  
 " other difficulty, as it was uncertain to what part of the  
 " globe we had consigned you ; but at length, by his Art,  
 " he learnt this likewise ; and coming to the Brink, by your  
 " assistance, though at that time too young to be sensible  
 " of its value, drew it from the *Lake*. I burned with in-  
 " dignation at this act of violence ; and should certainly  
 " have amply revenged myself on You, had you not been  
 " protected by the Magician,—who, having conducted you  
 " back to the forest, from whence he brought you, fled with  
 " the *Distaff* to the top of the *Durable Mountain*, where he  
 " preserved it for that person whom the Fates should endow  
 " with sufficient constancy to obtain it.

" Thus, compelled by Fate, I have related that part of your  
 " history yet unknown, which, otherwise, the implacable  
 " hatred I still bear you would never have suffered me to  
 " reveal."

These words were scarce ended, when Delay disappeared,  
 so great was her aversion to Diligence and the *Distaff*.

" Our

Our two travellers then again set forward, contemplating on the strange events the Fairy had unfolded; and presently arrived at the Palace,—where we will leave the Prince and his royal Parents to welcome them, and see what befel the next Princess in her journey to the *River of Good-nature*.

## THE

THE  
**A D V E N T U R E S**  
 OF THE  
**P R I N C E S S F L O R I S S A.**

THE Princess Florissa possessed many good qualities ; she was generous, sincere, and affectionate, to Benigna ; yet there was a certain haughtiness in her manners, particularly to inferiors, which rendered her far less amiable than her elder sister : She could not bear the least contradiction ; and, unless things went exactly agreeable to her inclination, would be frequently sullen, and continue out of humour whole days together. It was for this reason that the Fairy allotted her the journey, well knowing that one draught from the *River of Good-nature* would correct those faults which proceeded rather from a bad temper, than a bad heart.

The first object that presented itself to her, after she had departed from the Grotto of Benigna, was a poor Boy, sitting

by

by the way-side, crying most pitifully ; " For the love of  
 " goodness, Madam," said he, " bestow a trifle to prevent  
 " me from starving ; " " You had better," replied the Princess,  
 " go to work, than trouble and interrupt people as  
 " they pass ; " — " Alas ! " returned the Boy, " I can get no-  
 " thing to do ; and am so weak for want of food, that I can  
 " scarce stand." " I don't believe one word that you say,"  
 again replied Florissa ; " but let me be tormented by you  
 " no longer : " Then, putting her hand into a little silk  
 purse, she took from thence some pieces of silver, which,  
 with some small cakes her pocket afforded, she threw to him ;  
 but in such an ungracious manner, as entirely to destroy the  
 obligation she was bestowing.

Not long after this event, as she was passing by a poor, decrepit, ancient Woman, supported by two crutches, (one of which breaking she fell to the ground) ; " My pretty Maiden," said she, " be so kind as to help me up again." — " Your  
 " pretty Maiden ! " replied the Princess, " I should not think  
 " of being treated with such insolent freedom, by such an in-  
 " digent person as you are ; therefore lay till some other  
 " comes to assist you." — Saying this, she was continuing  
 her journey, when the old Woman rose : " You shall repent  
 " your ill-nature ; " said she, " I was a witness to your beha-  
 " viour to the distressed Boy, and contrived this artifice for

" one more trial. Know that I am Ill-fame, the Fairy or-  
 " dained to punish those who, by their bad conduct, give  
 " free scope to my power.—"Henceforth," said she, striking  
 her with a black Wand, " your Form shall be savage as your  
 " manners:" Which words were scarce uttered, when the  
 Princess, instead of a beautiful young Lady, became trans-  
 formed to a large, shaggy, black Bear:—"Continue in that  
 " form," said the Fairy, " best suited to your disposition, till  
 " the *River of Good-nature* shall restore you again to your for-  
 " mer shape." Then disappearing, she left the Princess  
 leisure to repent of her folly.

But she at present was not in a state for reflection; giving  
 vent to the first transports of her rage, by the most horrid  
 howlings that could be imagined;—in the midst of which,  
 (as if Fate seemed determined to humble her) an Arrow,  
 aimed from a clump of trees, gave her a most dreadful  
 wound in her side; the anguish of which, together with her  
 former misfortune, added fresh transports to her rage:  
 Sometimes she rolled on the ground; at others tore her flesh,  
 and endeavoured to put an end to her existence; till, at  
 last, exhausted with fatigue, she sunk down, lamenting her  
 unhappy fate; never once considering it was her own bad  
 conduct that occasioned her misfortune. She had not lain long  
 in this situation, before she fancied that the heat of the sun,

(now

(now in its meridian) seemed to augment the anguish of her wound; and, looking round, she spied, not far from her, a tree, the branches of which overshadowed a large part of the road: To this shade, with much difficulty, she crawled, and in a little time, notwithstanding the agony of her body and mind, fell into a profound sleep.

Now this tree was planted by a Fairy, who many years before resided in that part of the country, for the convenience and relief of all travellers passing that way, who might stand in need of its assistance: By her it was endowed with many powerful gifts; though its chief virtue consisted in an Odoriferous Gum that continually dropped from its branches; which would instantly heal the most dangerous wounds, though deemed incurable by all other art. The name given to this wonderful plant, by the Fairy, was the *Tree of Patience*, the inestimable gum of which, while the Princess slept, dropt into her side; so that, when she awoke, she found little inconvenience from the wound that pierced it; which so comforted her, that she now began to reflect on the words of the old Fairy, who only doomed her to that form till she should drink of the *River of Good-nature*; she considered likewise, that it was but a just sentence for her inhuman behaviour; determined to rectify her future conduct, and set out again on her journey, in order, if possible, to regain her former shape.

Full of these good resolutions, she pursued her way along the most unfrequented parts; being conscious that her uncouth form would subject her to many inconveniencies, should she attempt to take her road through Cities: Accordingly, she travelled till the close of the day, without meeting any person whatever, when she came to a pretty, little, neat House: She looked up and sighed: "Alas!" said she to herself, "Was it not for my horrid figure, I might, perhaps, be well comed here to a comfortable night's lodging; but I must fly the face of all human beings, lest I meet an untimely end from those I once called my fellow-creatures." So saying, she let fall some tears, and walked on, in order to seek a lodging in the forest; but had not gone far, before she perceived a very beautiful young Lady, sitting on a grassy hillock, playing with a Lamb which was gamboling around her: She had no sooner set eyes on our Bear, than she rose to run away; but the Princess kneeling down, caught her attention, by several gestures and motions, which appeared very strange for one of her seeming species; and no sooner saw her stop, than, advancing by slow degrees, she came up to her; and laying her head on the ground, took the foot of the young Lady, whose name was Pity, between her two fore-paws, and set it upon it, in order to shew that she was entirely at her disposal: This behaviour so amazed Pity, that she began to take courage, and be more familiar;

familiar; diverting herself by sticking her shaggy coat with flowers; and when she returned home, (which was to that same house the Princess before admired) suffered her to follow; and at length grew so fond, that her dear Bear was the constant companion of her rural amusements.

One day as they were walking by the sea-side, a thought occurred to Florissa, by which she might make her friend acquainted with her former condition; accordingly, after first catching her attention, she, with one of her paws, made marks in the sand to this effect; "I am the unfortunate "Princess Florissa." Pity had no sooner read this, than she guessed that her Bear was enchanted, and was lamenting that it was out of her power to release her, when she heard a voice, that seemed to proceed from under the water, repeat-these words:

" The' savage now she doth appear,  
" Yet hear, O gentle Pity, hear!  
" The Cestus will sure aid impart,  
" If thou but fix it near her heart."

Pity had no sooner heard these words, than she unlocked the Golden Girdle which she wore; and, as she thought the voice directed, put it round the Neck of the Princess. Now this Girdle, Pity, one day as she was walking, found floating

in a neighbouring River, out of which she drew it; and was so captivated with its elegance, that she put it on, and considered it as her greatest ornament; though she was ignorant till now of its real value:—It was called the *Ceſlus of Civility*, and inherited a very remarkable quality, viz. that it was able to transform the most savage things in nature to the most gentle. Immediateiy when Pity cast this round the Neck of the Princess, to her utter astonishment, she beheld her black Bear transformed to a delicate white Pigeon, which immediately flew into her bosom, but did not long continue; for, stretching its wings, it mounted in the air, and was out of sight in an instant, leaving its disconsolate mistress to return home and bewail her loss: Where we will likewife bid adieu to her, and follow our ærial Traveller; who, highly delighted with her situation, continued her flight over seas, mountains, vales, and deserts, till she arrived at the most beautiful spot of land she had ever seen. Spring, Summer, and Autumn, seemed here eternally united; fruits, flowers, buds, and blossoms, continually vying with each other, to render this charming Paradise (which was called the *Plains of Concord*) delightful: And in the midst of all ran the *River of Good-nature*, which flowed meandering into a thousand little streams, to water the plants and herbage of this happy land.

Here

Here the Princess alighted, and took a large draught; which done, she immediately found herself restored to her former shape, and exactly equipped as when she left Benigna; so, taking a large gold Bottle, (which the Fairy provided at her first setting out) she stooped down, and, filling it with the delicious liquor, turned and pursued her journey to the Fairy; but not before she had solaced herself, and admired the beauties that surrounded her.

She had not long left the *Plains of Concord*, when she discovered in a Forest, through which she was passing, two armed Knights, fiercely encountering each other. Florissa, who had now entirely lost her former haughtiness, eagerly ran to part them, but to no purpose; the one, who was mounted on a White Steed, still persisting in forcing the other, mounted on a Black one, to continue the combat; finding, therefore, no entreaties would prevail, the Princess desired them at least to taste of the liquor she had in her hand, if only to refresh themselves; to which they consented; but had no sooner tasted, than they felt the powerful effects of the *River of Good-nature*, from whence it was taken; for they involuntarily fell into each other's embraces; the Knight who rode on the White Steed asking forgiveness of the other for his former outrage.

Thus

Thus, all differences being settled, after returning mutual thanks to Florissa, they seated themselves under a tree; when the Knight who rode the Black Steed said, he was going to the Grotto of a very powerful Fairy, named Benigna, upon an affair of the utmost consequence: The Princess, with some surprise, assured him she was bound for the same place, (which did not a little please the Knight, being already captivated with her charms) and begged to know the occasion of his journey, if not improper. "If it be agreeable, Madam," replied he, "I will relate the history of my life, which may serve to amuse you till the declining sun renders travelling more delightful." Florissa and the other Knight assured him they should esteem it a particular favour; when he began in the following manner:

### The HISTORY of GENTLE REPROOF.

"MY life, Madam," said the stranger, "has been marked, from earliest infancy, by misfortunes. My Mother was a Fairy of the highest order; her name is Friendship. It happened one day, when she was walking in the woods with her companions, that she was accosted by a young Knight of Royal extraction, whose agreeable

" person

" person and manners so captivated her, that, contrary to the  
 " laws of Fairy-land, she determined to marry him; not-  
 " withstanding the remonstrances of her Kindred.—By  
 " this marriage she was excluded from the Fairy Court; so  
 " great is their dislike to an union with Mortals. But it gave  
 " my Mother little uneasiness; my Father, whose name was  
 " Integrity, possessing a disposition so amiable, and consonant  
 " with her own, that their lives were one continued scene of  
 " love and harmony: The only thing that appeared wanting,  
 " to complete their felicity, was a Child, on whom they  
 " might lavish an equal share of tenderness:—It was not long  
 " before this likewise was added; for, two years after their  
 " union, I was born, to the inexpressible satisfaction of my  
 " parents, and called Gentle Reproof. But, alas! this hap-  
 " piness was but of short duration.

" There was an old Fairy, called Malice, (though she  
 " generally went by the name of the Black Fairy, from the  
 " darkness of her complexion) who lived not far from our  
 " habitation; she had a particular aversion to my Mother, oc-  
 " casioned by the difference of their art; for, as my Mother  
 " delighted in, and practised, that part of Enchantment  
 " wholly Good—so her sole skill and pleasure depended on  
 " Evil:—She had long looked with a malignant eye on the  
 " happiness of our family; and, bursting with venom at

" this

“ this addition to its happiness, invented a scheme to imbitter  
“ it, by stealing me away. Accordingly, one day as I lay  
“ asleep, rendering herself invisible, she entered the house,  
“ and escaped with me undiscovered; then, hastening to her  
“ Den, she made use of many diabolical charms, which  
“ changed my face black like her own; and so entirely de-  
“ formed me, that it would have been impossible for my Mo-  
“ ther, notwithstanding her own art, to have known me,  
“ unless assisted by a superior power: When thus disfigured  
“ she called me Reproach. Educated under her tuition, and  
“ knowing no other parents, I naturally became extremely  
“ fond of her: and must do her the justice to acknowledge,  
“ that she equally returned it. Her favourite amusement  
“ was, to lay concealed in the *Forest of Strife*, with me at  
“ her side; and when she saw any traveller who had been  
“ chastised by Ill-fame, (another Fairy who frequented  
“ those parts) Malice gave me the hint to wound the object  
“ with my Arrows, which were prepared by my foster-mother  
“ with such subtle poison, that they communicated a raging  
“ madness through the whole frame; so that, unless the  
“ persons wounded were fortunate enough to repair to a cer-  
“ tain tree, which contained an Antidote to its venom, they  
“ soon put an end to their own lives, and became our prey,  
“ which we devoured at leisure.

“ Thus

" Thus, Madam, you see my life was spent in a state of  
 " savage inhumanity, whilst my true parents lived bewailing  
 " my loss, and continually imploring the Fairy Court for re-  
 " dress; but all the relief they could bestow was, to inform  
 " them where I was, and by whose power detained; but the  
 " charms were too powerful to be overruled by any ordi-  
 " nary means: So that they continued deprived of hope many  
 " years; when a young Fairy, of my Mother's acquaintance,  
 " advised her to repair to the Cave of Merlin, a Magician,  
 " and consult the Oracle.—To this end she set out, and ar-  
 " rived at the Cave: It was situated between two high rocks,  
 " and guarded by four gentle-minded Fairies, his com-  
 " panions, whom my mother, by her art, easily conversed  
 " with; and having entered, together with the Magician,  
 " consulted the Oracle; which answered, that, unless the  
 " *Cestus of Civility*, which lay hid in the *Plains of Concord*,  
 " could be thrown round me, I should never return to my  
 " natural form and understanding.

" When my Mother understood this, she immediately  
 " went in pursuit of it; and found it in the place the Oracle  
 " pointed out; hid under a golden stone.—Her next care  
 " was to cast it round me, although a very hazardous en-  
 " terprise, I being constantly armed with the poisoned Ar-

“ rows, ready to draw at the slightest notice: But my Mo-  
 “ ther, determined not to shrink at danger where there  
 “ was the least probability of regaining me, came to the  
 “ Forest where the Black Fairy and Myself were amusing  
 “ ourselves with our accustomed diversions; and in an instant  
 “ encircled me with the *Cestus*, before my Foster-mother,  
 “ whose eye was fixed on a Black Bear I had just wounded.”

Here the Princess interrupted him; and, from many circumstances, discovered, to their mutual surprise, it was that very Arrow, aimed by Reproach, with which *she* was wounded, when under the chastisement of Ill-fame.—After this the Knight proceeded: “ The Black Fairy, Madam,” as I was saying, “ did not perceive my Mother till it was too late; she made signs, indeed, for me to defend myself; but the *Cestus*, which had the wonderful power of taming the most savage nature, had instantly wrought an astonishing change in me: My complexion was no longer dark, nor my countenance forbidding; my person, which was before deformed and bloated, was now smooth and delicate; my mind also underwent a total revolution; and I felt a just abhorrence of my Foster-mother, and former way of life; when, turning round, I perceived my Real Mother run, bidding me follow her; which I did, notwithstanding

“withstanding the rage and threats of the Black Fairy,  
 “ who had now entirely lost her power over me. I  
 “ was presently introduced to Integrity, my Father, who  
 “ embraced me with all the transports of parental af-  
 “ fection.

“ Thus my Parents were once more blest; and I lived in  
 “ the greatest tranquility, till, being one day extremely hot,  
 “ I unlocked the *Cestus*, in order to bathe; but unfortunately  
 “ let it fall into the river: I instantly plunged to recover  
 “ it; but the current ran so strong, that it was out of sight in  
 “ a moment: Terrified at the loss, I returned to my Mother,  
 “ from whom I could gain no relief; her only advice being,  
 “ that I should avoid the *Forest of Strife*, where Malice  
 “ lived, and take a journey to Benigna, a powerful Fairy,  
 “ who resided in the further part of this country; where I  
 “ might, perhaps, gain some intelligence of it.—I had not  
 “ proceeded far on my enterprise, before I was attacked by  
 “ this Knight, when you timely interposed, and reconciled  
 “ us with the valuable *Liquor of Good-nature.*”

Here the Knight concluded his narrative, which did not a little increase the affection Florissa had, from the first moment, entertained for him.—They pursued their journey,

accompanied by the strange Knight, who declared himself bound on no particular Adventure.

As we have now an opportunity of leaving the Princess in such agreeable company, we will follow her Sister Clementina, in search of the inestimable *Spear of Truth.* ~~X~~

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE  
PRINCESS CLEMENTINA.

CLEMENTINA, the third Princess, began her journey with a much lighter heart than her Sisters: She was of a lively, volatile disposition, and wished to see the world; she had likewise a desire to give Benigna a proof of her fortitude, by overcoming those dangers she had informed her lay in the way, unless she kept the straight Road: This the Princess was determined not to do, being confident she was capable of surmounting every difficulty and temptation. Seeing, therefore, a pleasant meadow, she turned aside; and, finding herself extremely drowsy, fell into a profound sleep, in which she continued till roused by a loud clap of thunder: She started up, and, to her great terror, found it the close of day; and that a violent storm had gathered over her head:

She

She looked round, in hopes of discovering some house where she might pass the night ; but, not perceiving any, was fain to shelter herself from the rain in a thick Wood, on the opposite side of the meadow. The storm having somewhat abated, she attempted to regain the Road ; but, alas ! this Wood, called the *Labyrinth of Error*, was so intricate, that, together with the darkness of the night, rendered it utterly impossible to obtain her desire ; and, to her inexpressible horror, she was obliged to spend the night there ; every moment in expectation of being torn to pieces by the wild beasts, whose savage cries echoed from side to side of the wilderness.

She now heartily repented of her folly, in neglecting the good advice of Benigna ; believing that she should be devoured, as a punishment for her undutiful conduct.— However, for her security, she ascended a tree, and by that means passed the night in safety. In the morning she descended, fully resolved to make all possible speed to the public road ; but had scarce left the tree, when she was accosted by an old Hermit, arrayed in a long white garment, covered with a grey mantle, reaching to his girdle : “ Good “ morrow, sweet Lady,” said he, “ whither are you going “ so early ?” “ I am an unfortunate Traveller,” replied the Princess, “ who, last night, lost my way in this Wilderness.”

“ If

“ If you will step with me,” said the old Man, “ to my cottage, which is hard by, and accept of a breakfast, I will afterwards conduct you on your way:” “ Thank you, my good Father,” said she, “ I’ll accept of your invitation; for I am really very faint for want of refreshment:” “ You will find,” said he, “ no costly fare, no luxurious meats or liquors; nothing but plain and poor, with a hearty welcome.” Clementina assured him she preferred that to the greatest dainties without it. The Hermit then asked her to whom she belonged? The Princess answered, “ To the Fairy Benigna; and that she was, by her appointment, travelling in pursuit of the *Spear of Truth*.”

As they were conversing in this manner, they entered the cottage; and the old Man covered the table with milk, honey, and dried fruits, of which he kindly invited the Princess to partake: And, when they were seated at their repast, amused her by relating the most entertaining tales; at the same time intermixing such wholesome and paternal advice, that, captivated with his agreeable conversation, Clementina lost all thoughts of pursuing her journey that day; and at length was persuaded by her host, whose name was Hypocrisy, to spend some time there; and became so pleased with his honest freedom, that, had it not been for Benigna, whom she still tenderly loved, she would have been contented to

have

have resided with him her whole life; but when she considered that, by this conduct, she must entirely relinquish the design for which she set out, and by that means forfeit the friendship and protection of Benigna, her spirit was newly animated; and she proposed to the Hermit to continue her journey: "My dear Child," said he, "let me persuade you to abandon this dangerous pursuit; and abide in peace and tranquility with me, where you will enjoy the pleasures of a rural life: I am sensible," continued he, "that should I lose you, my heart will break."

Notwithstanding these alluring words, Clementina stood firm to her resolution; when Hypocrisy, brightening his countenance, "I did it but to try you," said he, "and would be the last person to dissuade you from so glorious an enterprise as that of obtaining the *Spear of Truth*. Although I live in this obscurity, I may, perhaps, render you some service: There is a friend of mine, who keeps an elegant house not far from hence; at my desire she will direct you a much nearer and easier way." He had scarce ended this sentence, when a young Woman, very smartly dressed, entered: "Conduct this Traveller," said Hypocrisy, (turning towards her) "to your Mistress: Tell her she is in pursuit of the *Spear of Truth*; and that I am much interested in her success."

"success;"—Saying this, he respectfully bowed to Clementina, and parted, with much seeming concern. X

The young Damsel, whose name was Flattery, conducted the Princess through the *Labyrinth of Error* with great complaisance. Her winning manners, and agreeable conversation, so delighted the Princess, that she imagined herself fortunate beyond her most sanguine wishes, in meeting with so agreeable a companion; nor did Flattery, on her part, appear to be less pleased; endeavouring, by all the art she was mistress of, to ingratiate herself with Clementina; lavishing on her the most extravagant compliments; telling her she was more beautiful, witty, and accomplished, than any she had ever before seen, &c. These soothing accents sunk deep into the heart of the Princess, (who was naturally fond of admiration) and engrossed her attention, till a very ornamented building, painted with various colours, appeared in view. The Princess, observing its magnificence, asked her companion if it belonged to the Lady to whom they were going?—Flattery answered it did; but assured her, that the elegance of the inside infinitely surpassed that of the out.

By this time they were at the brink of a river, that glided before the entrance, planted on each side with orange and other odiferous shrubs. Flattery called to

one of the attendants, and ordered a glass of water from the stream; which she presented to the Princess, telling her that, although she was accomplished and beautiful even to excess, yet one draught of that liquor would render her ten thousand times more so: Clementina, without hesitation, put it to her lips, and, finding the taste extremely pleasant, drank it off. Now the name of this stream was the *River of Self-conceit*; and was endowed with such an intoxicating quality, as instantly to un settle the understanding of those who tasted of it, and make them imagine their native charms much heightened by the draught they had taken.—The Princess soon found its effects; for, casting her eyes downward to the stream, she fancied the reflection of herself beautiful as an Angel: Her complexion seemed to glow with unusual loveliness; her eyes to flash brighter fire; and she had a number of smart sentences at the end of her tongue, which she only wanted time and opportunity to utter.

She was not long reflecting on this wonderful change, when Flattery introduced her to a spacious gallery, richly adorned with *Bronzes*, and the most high-finished *fabulous Paintings*; from whence they passed to a suite of apartments equally elegant, in which were several parties of Ladies and Gentlemen, amusing themselves variously; dancing, singing, or playing different games—cards, dice, &c. They all seemed

seemed to enjoy the festivity ; and invited Clementina, as she passed, to join in their diversions : But she followed her guide to a room even superior to the former, where sat Falsehood, the possessor of this enchanting Mansion. She appeared to be about five-and-twenty ; and so fair, that the Princess now began to think with indifference on the beauty of her dear Benigna : She was dressed in a *changeable* silk garment, embroidered with foils and feathers ; and a wreath of rubies encircled her fine black hair, which fell in ringlets on her snowy bosom. To this charming female Flattery introduced the Princess, informing Falsehood from whence she came ; and that their good friend, the Hermit, had strongly recommended her as a guest worthy to be amused, being on a journey, in search of the *Spear of Truth*.

Falsehood, who perfectly understood the Hermit's message, assured the Princess, with a most bewitching smile, that the dangers and difficulties in that road were so great, as to render it impossible to be attained ; and, even were it possible, it was scarcely worth the trouble, it being an old, rusty, antiquated Weapon, much out of use : But my house, said she, taking her by the hand, shall be at your service, provided you consent to continue with me. This speech was no sooner ended, than Flattery, in her natural insinuating manner, began to add the most powerful persuasions ; so that

the Princess, whose Brain was intoxicated with the liquor she had drank from the *River of Self-conceit*, at her first entrance, began to look with disgust on the innocent pleasure she had tasted in the Grotto of the Fairy; and thought that her beauty, wit, and accomplishments, deserved better than to be confined to a solitary life: With these considerations, she was easily persuaded to stay, and give up the fatiguing journey allotted her by Benigna. She had no sooner signified her intention, than Flattery conducted her back to those companies she had before seen, who readily admitted her to their societies.

She spent the first two or three days in the most agreeable manner: One thing only alarmed and gave her uneasiness; which was a Spectre, who continually haunted the Mansion, and had the most stern and unpleasant aspect she ever beheld: He walked about, armed with a pair of Pincers, waiting every opportunity to allure any one of the company from the rest; when he made use of these Pincers to nip and torment them; their only resource being to join the companies and diversions as soon as possible, where he seldom intruded. This Spectre, whose name was Evil-conscience, in a little time became so troublesome to Clementina, that she lost all relish for the amusements that had before so charmed her. She frequently complained to her favourite, Flattery, of the great

great disquiet his company gave her: At which Flattery laughed; and told her, that she must not give any attention to him, for " That he was only an impudent old fellow, " who had intruded himself, she could not tell how, into the " house, and attached himself so firmly to Falsehood, her " mistress, that, notwithstanding their endeavours, they " could never get rid of him: But, added she, being con- " tinually surrounded by society, we give him little ob- " servance." This, however, did not satisfy Clementina, who grew every day more and more discontented with her situation: The company, the diversions, no more delighted her; and she now looked back, with regret, on those happy hours she had spent in the grotto of Benigna.

In this unhappy state of mind, she one day went out to walk in the groves that surrounded the house, in order to try, if possible, to escape the vigilance of her constant tor-mentor, the Spectre; when she was met by a venerable looking Hermit, of a very serious countenance. " You seem in " haste, young Lady," said he, accosting her: " I am en- " deavouring," replied the Princess, " to escape a dreadful " Spectre that haunts our house :" " What, the Palace of " Falsehood?" said the Hermit. The Princess answered " Yes;" " I am happy," returned the Hermit, " that you " have taken this path, as I can easily free you from him, " provided

“ provided you put yourself under my protection, and consent to leave this place immediately.”

Clementina, fearful of being again deceived, hesitated; but, after viewing his countenance steadfastly, was fully persuaded he would be her friend: She then told him she formerly set out in search of the *Spear of Truth*, and desired nothing more than again to pursue her journey; but that she had now unfortunately forgot what road she should take.

“ My name,” said the Hermit, “ is Repentance; and it is in my power only to free you from the tyranny of that Spectre, and again put you in the straight road to obtain the *Spear of Truth*.” He then commanded the Princess to kneel; and, taking a little Box of Balsam from his pocket, “ This,” said he, “ is the ointment of Resolution; without which you would never be able to escape the Mansion of Falsehood, who is an Enchantress.” Saying this, he anointed her shoulders with the balsam, and the Princess instantly felt a pair of Wings grow out of them, with which she could fly to the most distant parts. Repentance then conducted her to the straight Road; when, with the assistance of her Wings, she presently lost sight of the habitation of Falsehood, and arrived at the foot of the Mountain, where the Bright Spear was held up to the person who attained the Summit. Here Clementina saw many people looking with

with wishful eyes on it; but, for want of the Wings of Resolution, they still continued at the Bottom. The Princess, by the use of these, with little difficulty, gained the wished-for Eminence; and was presented with the *Spear of Truth* by a beautiful Female, the Guardian of it.

“ I resign you,” said she, “ this invaluable Treasure; and  
“ congratulate you on escaping the arts which Falsehood and  
“ Hypocrisy never fail to cast in the way of those who set  
“ out in pursuit of it: Go,” continued she, “ and return in  
“ safety to Benigna, far from the Labyrinth of Error, and  
“ secure from those dangers from which the *Spear of Truth*  
“ can alone defend you.” She then smiled with ineffable  
sweetness on the Princess, and left her to return to the Guardian Fairy, who received her with open arms, and the warmest congratulations.

THE  
 A D V E N T U R E S  
 O F THE  
 P R I N C E S S B O N N E T T A.

GOOD-NATURE, affability, and sweetness of temper, shone conspicuous in the character of the Princess Bonnetta, and amply made amends for the defects of her person. She was short, crooked, and dark-complexioned; but, notwithstanding these defects, she captivated the hearts of all who knew her, by her good sense and amiable disposition.

This Princess had not advanced far on her journey, before she was accosted by an old Fairy, who spoke to her in the following words: "I am," said the Fairy, "by my art, acquainted that the Fates have ordained you a journey, long, difficult, and replete with innumerable dangers:

" You

“ You are young and inexperienced ; and, without some supernatural defence, will unavoidably fall a prey to those perils that await you : Take, therefore, this *Enchanted Rod*, which will give you unlimited power ; fail not to use it, and you will instantly perceive the wonderful Gift with which it is endowed.” She then disappeared, leaving the Princess possessed of the *Enchanted Rod*.

Bonnetta, delighted with the Gift of the old Fairy, seated herself beneath a tree, to indulge the agreeable reflections her good fortune produced in her mind ; for she now fancied she might pursue her journey free from interruption : When an ancient Hermit walked slowly towards her ; he was dressed in a long black gown and cap, and held a White Wand in his hand. “ Daughter,” said he to the Princess, “ you are, doubtless, ignorant that the *Rod*, which seems to inspire you with resolution and delight, ought rather to fill your mind with diffidence and regret ; but, lest the assertion of a stranger may possibly obtain little credit, I will relate my history.”—So saying, he seated himself beside her, and began in the following manner :

The HISTORY of the HERMIT of the  
WHITE ROCK.

" MY name," said the Hermit, " is Albubeca. I first  
 " drew breath in a Cavern, at the summit of a tremendous  
 " precipice, called the White Rock; where, for some years,  
 " I enjoyed a series of uninterrupted quiet; but at length an  
 " Adventure happened, which drew me from this scene of  
 " inactivity: One evening, led by the serenity of the air, I  
 " followed the course of a winding river, till I lost myself,  
 " amidst a chain of almost inaccessible mountains; when  
 " on a sudden, at the entrance of a little Wood, I was struck  
 " by the appearance of a brilliant Chariot, fashioned of  
 " one entire diamond. Being sensible that these Mountains  
 " were uninhabited, I was at a loss to fathom the mystery;  
 " but had scarce time for reflection, when I heard a shrill  
 " voice call me by my name, and, turning round, disco-  
 " vered, at a small distance from me, a terrible-looking  
 " old Fairy, who, with evident marks of confusion, bid  
 " me approach; near her was standing a young Female,  
 " who, though beautiful beyond expression, still wore a  
 " stern and commanding aspect.

" Imme-

" Immediately as I approached, the old Fairy laid hold  
 " on a Rod which I held in my hand ; and, with precipi-  
 " tation, uttered these words, " May half of that power I  
 " possess pass to this Rod :" " See," continued she, turning  
 " to the beautiful figure who stood at her side, " my art  
 " shall still remain active." The other, without reply, struck  
 " the ground with a bright Spear, when, to my utter astonish-  
 " ment, the Wood in which we were standing, and the old  
 " Fairy, disappeared: I then found myself in a verdant mea-  
 " dow, accompanied by the beautiful Celestial, (for such  
 " I found she was) who spoke to me in these words;  
 " The Fates," said she, " have permitted you to be a witness  
 " to some secrets, whereby the Vindictive are governed. I  
 " am Justice, one of the superior Deities: The name of that  
 " old Fairy is Revenge; she has endeavoured to frustrate my  
 " designs, by transmitting a part of her power to that Rod  
 " you now hold in your hand; by which means she imagines  
 " that Mankind will still groan under the weight of her de-  
 " structive art :" " But," continued Justice, " I will in part  
 " defeat the Evil of her intention." She then took the Rod  
 " from my hand, and having touched it with her Spear, called  
 " it the *Rod of Retribution*; and returned it with these  
 " words, " Revenge be far from thee; abuse not my dele-  
 " gated Power, but punish Vice, and reward Virtue." She  
 " then, with a smile of righteous dignity, bid me return

“ to my habitation in peace ; and, mounting the radiant  
“ Chariot I had before seen, was instantly out of sight.

“ I travelled on till I came to the head of a river, whose  
“ winding current conducted me back to my home. I im-  
“ mediately entered my Cavern, possessed of the *Rod of Re-  
tribution*, and adhered strictly to the injunction of Justice.  
“ I called forth its *evil* properties to chastise Vice, and its *good*  
“ to reward Virtue.

“ But I continued not long in this state of tranquility ;  
“ for Revenge employed her skill to the utmost, in order to  
“ obtain possession of the Rod, to which she had conferred  
“ a considerable part of her power ; but finding all other  
“ efforts vain, she assumed the form of a beautiful woman,  
“ whom I imagined to be Justice ; entered my habita-  
“ tion ; and, with ease, persuaded me to relinquish it. I  
“ had no sooner parted with this treasure, than another Fe-  
“ male, even superior to the former, stood before me : She  
“ told me that I had, by my credulity, put the *Rod of Re-  
tribution* into the hands of the old Fairy Revenge, who  
“ had artfully, for that purpose, assumed the form of  
“ Justice : She added, that the instant Revenge got pos-  
“ session of the Rod, she had annihilated it's good proper-  
“ ties, and left the *evil* alone remaining ; with which she  
“ would

" would still continue to scourge Mankind : She then presented me with a Wand, telling me it was endowed with the power of conferring solely *good*; and commanded me to use it in defence of the Innocent and Unprotected : After this she disappeared, informing me that she was Mercy, one of the Celestial Visitors. It was by the power of this Wand that I rendered myself invisible, and discovered Revenge deliver the dangerous Rod to you, which is now entirely gifted by her diabolical Art : She is acquainted that you are in pursuit of the *Mantle of Meekness*, and is sensible that the powerful Rod will most probably frustrate your attempts to obtain it." ~~X~~

Here the Princess interrupted him; " Let me instantly," said she, " throw this destructive Power from me :" " No," replied the Hermit, " Heaven permits you to receive it, as a trial of your worth : To bear Injuries with patience, when destitute of power to return them, is a tribute due to your own ease; but to endure them with moderation, whilst the *Rod of Retribution* rests in your hand, is an effort of true fortitude. Go, then, my Daughter, and, possessed of it, approve yourself worthy of that invaluable treasure of which you are in pursuit." He then disappeared, and left the Princess to continue her journey.

Bonnetta travelled many days without meeting with any adventure worth notice, till, on a sudden, she felt several parts of her body pierced by a shower of Darts, which issued from a thick Forest by which she was passing; equally surprised and terrified, she endeavoured to escape by the swiftness of her feet, but in vain, for the darts still pursued her with equal rapidity.

It is now time to consider the cause of this misfortune. The Reader will certainly recollect Malice, the Black Fairy, who had formerly so considerable a share in the adventures of Gentle Reproof; and will remember likewise, that she armed him with poisoned Arrows, and named him Reproach: But the powerful *Cetus* had no sooner rendered him beyond her reach, than the Arrows, which were fitted only for his hand, remained useless. Malice, however, could not long suffer her diabolical spirit to rest; but, with many secret spells and invocations, formed a magic Machine, exactly to resemble a Porcupine, which, on the slightest intimation, would dart its envenomed quills into the most susceptible parts of the human frame; and, having animated it with her own venom, called it Slander.

Thus

Thus the Darts of Slander pursued Bonetta; the pain of which, though by no means equal to that occasioned by the Arrows of Reproach, were, nevertheless, sufficiently excruciating: She often felt a strong inclination to retort the anguish she endured to the author of it, which she could instantly have done, by waving the *Enchanted Rod*, put into her hand by the Fairy Revenge; but, when she reflected on the words of the Hermit of the White Rock, she determined to endure any thing, rather than, by the use of this dangerous Gift, to forfeit the hopes of obtaining that treasure of which she was in pursuit. \*

With incredible swiftness she continued her flight, till, at the entrance of a Cavern, she perceived an old Man, who, with much kindness in his address, entreated her to enter, and shelter herself from the Darts of Slander; he inveighed most bitterly at the cruelty of her persecutors; and wondered, nay, insinuated, that she should exercise the power which he had been informed a certain Fairy, called Revenge, had intrusted her with: That topic the Princess waved, and stood silent; when he, with much seeming sympathy, begged she would confide in him, if any thing unfavourable in her affairs had caused her misfortunes, as his Heart and Doors were always open to succour the distressed: by such kind speeches the Princess,

overjoyed

overjoyed to have arrived at a place of security, immediately went in; but had no sooner set her foot on the inside, than she felt herself sink many fathoms under ground into a deep dungeon.

She had scarce recovered from a swoon, which the fall occasioned, when the old Man entered; who, rejoiced at adding another to the list of his Captives, with a malignant smile, confined her amongst a number of unfortunate wretches, who, like herself, had been decoyed into his snares. ~~—~~

Here Bonetta was frequently on the point of exercising the *Enchanted Rod*; but the native mildness of her disposition, joined to that firm desire she ever felt of obtaining the immortal *Mantle of Meekness*, still rose superior, and put an end to so dangerous an expedient: Nor did she repent of this conduct; for, on the third day, her old friend the Hermit of the White Rock stood before her: "I am  
 " charmed," said he, "with your moderation, which will  
 " not in the end go unrewarded: Resign now, said Al-  
 " bubeca, the Rod to me; for, though you have more  
 " trials to encounter, they will be in a state where its power  
 " would be useless; and remember, that, if difficult the  
 " combat, the more glorious will be your victory: You are  
 " now,

" now, unfortunately, fallen into the snares of Treachery,  
 " a powerful, but evil Magician; his Charms are too strong  
 " to be overcome, except by a superior Enchantment:  
 " You must therefore, to avoid the snares of Treachery,  
 " for a time bid adieu to all converse with Human Beings;  
 " chuse, then, and I will release you, either by transform-  
 " ing you to a Dolphin or a Nightingale."

Bonnetta felt her imagination incline strongly to become  
 an inhabitant of the air; but, being willing to act cau-  
 tiously, she continued silent, while she debated the question  
 in the following manner: " If I become a Nightingale,"  
 said she to herself, " I shall with ease skim to the utmost of  
 " this vast world; and discover the various wonders that  
 " adorn its Palaces, Plains, Mountains, and Seas; besides  
 " observing the different customs and manners of Mankind.  
 " But what is pleasure," said she, recollecting herself,  
 " unless we can diffuse it to others? I shall be alone in the  
 " wide world, without one Friend or Companion to par-  
 " take of my delights." Here a flood of tears covered her  
 face.

" If I become a Dolphin," said she, continuing her re-  
 flections, " though I lose the sight of the Sun, I shall still hold  
 " a part in the concerns of Mortality: I shall warn the

“ unthinking Mariner of the gathering storm; and teach  
 “ him to prepare for the approaching danger; And this con-  
 “ solation will ever remain, that, although I should no more  
 “ be permitted to mix with my native species, I shall still  
 “ be useful to the cause of Humanity.”

This last reflection pleaded so forcibly with the amiable Princess, that she entreated Albubeca to transform her to a Dolphin: When the Hermit, who was acquainted with what passed in her mind, thus answered her; “ Because you have preferred active Virtue to the Enchantments of Pleasure, *both* shall attend you.” “ Be,” said he, striking her with his Wand, “ at discretion, a Dolphin or a Nightingale:” Which words were no sooner uttered, than the Princess became a Dolphin, sporting in a large Ocean: But, having a desire to try how she should approve of an ærial situation, she wished she might become a Nightingale; and in an instant, as the Hermit had promised, she mounted the Air in that form. It being evening, she flew towards a cottage, and slept on the branches of a pear-tree, and in the morning took her flight to a pleasant Valley; through it ran a clear stream, at the side of which sat an handsome young Knight.—Bonnetta, being attracted by the gracefulness of his person, perched herself on a tree hard by, to observe him.

He had tidd his horse to a tree, and was entertaining himself with a Book; but in a short time arose, and, mounting his steed, which was milk-white, rode slowly up the valley; while the Princess, who had an earnest desire to discover who this agreeable young Knight was, followed at a short distance.

The first object that caught their attention, was a magnificent Castle, built with the finest Egyptian Marble, with lofty windows, the frames of which were made of wrought Gold; and the whole Edifice was adorned with the richest sculpture art could invent. The stranger stopt to admire it; as also his little aerial Companion, who had never in her life seen any thing so elegantly rich and noble. +

In the meanwhile, a very beautiful young Lady approached, and invited the Knight to enter the Castle, and refresh himself: At first he refused; but, being entreated a second time, complied, and followed her. The Princess likewise intended being of the party; and was watching an opportunity to enter, undiscovered, when the Hermit of the White Rock stood before her: "Whither are you going," said he, frowning; "you know not what danger lurks beneath that finery: The Castle belongs to a deformed Giant, called Pride, who endeavours to disguise his odious

“ figure by the costliness of his habit : That Lady, who appeared so beautiful, is his Wife ; her name is Vanity. By an artful and insinuating address, she decoys unthinking Travellers, passing that way, into her Castle : Where they are kept in a state of abject slavery, to augment the revenue of the Giant Pride, her husband : Yet so alluring is the address of Vanity, that they remain pleased with their condition, and utterly insensible to their Bondage ; which, once known, could easily be shook off. The Knight she has now entrapped is travelling in pursuit of adventures ; he is an amiable youth, but too frequently led away by false appearances, and is called the Knight of the Silver Shield.”

“ Alas ! ” replied the Princess, “ and is there not a possibility of recovering him from her Enchantment ? ” “ I have,” said the Hermit, “ in my possession a Charm, which, if properly applied, is able to destroy the enchantments of Pride and Vanity ; it is called the *Ring of Humility* ; which, when rubbed on the eyelids of the persons held by their art, immediately causes them to discover their confinement ; when it requires little exertion to shake off their chains : I will intrust you with this inestimable jewel, if, after what I have told you, you have courage to enter the Castle and apply it. Bonetta, who felt her heart

“ deeply,

“ deeply interested in the welfare of the Knight, readily  
 “ embraced the proposal; when Albubeca, taking the ring  
 “ from his finger, slipped the neck of our Nightingale into  
 “ it, and, bidding her farewell, disappeared.”

The Princess, unperceived, sped her flight to the great Hall of the Castle; at the upper end of which was seated the Giant, who, notwithstanding the richness of his crimson and gold Robe, appeared to Bonnetta the most deformed of human beings: He was seated at a splendid Banquet, surrounded by a crowd of Knights and Ladies, who all appeared to be in the height of merriment. But it must certainly have astonished her (had she not before been informed by the Hermit) to observe, that each of the guests wore a large Gold Chain, one end of which was fastened to their right foot, and the other to their neck; so that it might truly be said, they were magnificent slaves; but to this they appeared perfectly insensible, and continued in great glee, which was much augmented by Vanity, whose sole aim seemed the entertainment of her guests. Amongst the rest, not without a sensible mortification, the Princess observed the Knight of the Silver Shield, who appeared to be much captivated by the wit and beauty of Vanity; the Giant being too much employed with his own importance to give any attention to the concerns of his Wife.

Whem

When Bonnetta had made every necessary observation, towards evening she stole, unperceived, to the chamber allotted for the Knight; and, concealing herself in the hangings, waited till he retired to rest. She no sooner observed him asleep, than she alighted softly on the bed; and, taking the Ring in her beak, applied it to his eye-lids, as the Hermit had directed; and, again slipping her neck into it, flew to her place of concealment.

In the morning, when the Knight awoke, he was much amazed to find his neck and right foot encumbered with a large Chain; and being convinced, as he thought, that it was not so when he went to rest, imagined that some one had been in his chamber, and treacherously taken advantage of him whilst asleep: Stung with this idea, he started up; and, to his great surprise, with ease shook off his bondage. He could not, however, reconcile this mystery, in appearance so strange; but was going down stairs, determined, if possible, to unravel it; when he cast his eye on the little Nightingale who had imprudently perched on a rich cabinet, preparing to serenade him. But how was he amazed to observe her neck adorned with a jewel that far outshone any he had seen the preceding day in the Castle! So, taking hold of her, notwithstanding she fluttered, beat her wings, and used her utmost endeavours in defence of it, he pulled it from her neck;

and

and putting that on one finger, and her on the other, walked to the great Hall.

But here was fresh matter for astonishment; his fellow guests, whom he had the night before considered as Noblemen of the first rank, now appeared to be miserable Captives, kept in a splendid bondage, to augment the retinue of a deformed Giant. He remonstrated with several on their abject situation, endeavouring to rouse them to revenge the indignity offered to their persons: But they refused to give ear to his advice, believing his understanding to be impaired. Finding, therefore, all entreaties vain, he walked slowly from the Castle, reflecting on the strange adventures he had met with; which he fully believed to proceed from some Enchantment. The Knight was at a considerable distance before he observed that he had lost his little Nightingale, who had, unperceived, been taken from his hand by one of the guests at the Castle; and was now confined, much against her inclination, in a gilt cage.

Trusting that every reader is interested in the welfare of this amiable Princess, we will leave the Knight of the Silver Shield to pursue his journey, possessed of the valuable *Ring of Humility*, and return once more to the *Castle of Pride*.

Poor Bonnetta languished many days in confinement, till at length an opportunity presented itself for her escape: It happened that her Keeper went one day to angle in a garden belonging to the Castle; and, taking the Cage in which she was confined, set it beside him: By good fortune the door flew open, and Bonnetta, who impatiently waited an opportunity of escaping, instantly leaped to the river a Dolphin.

She was soon far beyond the confines of the Giant's Castle, and continued gliding in the watery element, till, to her inconceivable terror, she felt her body encompassed by a net; and in a few minutes, with several of her finny companions, drawn into a Boat: But how great was her joy and satisfaction, to behold in this boat her favourite Knight of the Silver Shield! Bonnetta was off the point of changing herself again to a Nightingale, when the air darkened; and an old Fairy appeared, who, seizing the Knight in her arms, conveyed him out of sight in an instant.

The Princess endeavoured to mount in the air as usual; but, instead of a Nightingale, she was restored to her natural form, and at a vast distance from the spot where she lost sight of the Knight. She had scarce time to look round, before the Hermit of the White Rock stood before her: "You will

" now,"

“ now,” said he, “ receive the reward due to your Virtue :  
 “ We are,” continued he, “ on the borders of the Celestial  
 “ Island, where the immortal *Mantle of Meekness* is pre-  
 “ served.”

This sentence was scarce uttered, when a beautiful Female approached, with two lovely Infants bearing the *Mantle of Meekness* before her.—“ My name,” said she, addressing herself to Bonnetta, “ is Justice, ordained by Heaven to “ punish Vice and reward Virtue : The *Mantle of Meekness* is, “ justly your’s, and amply repays the toil of attaining.”— Saying this, she put it on the Princess ; and turned again to the Celestial Island, her eternal abode.

Bonnetta, whose person was before deformed, and features unpleasing, by the power of the *Mantle* now surpassed her sisters in beauty ; and with this advantage, that it would continue to the most extreme age.

“ You have now,” said Albubeca, embracing her, “ no more perils to encounter : Go, therefore, and pursue your way in safety to Benigna, whither the Fates will conduct the Knight of the Silver Shield :—He is worthy of your affection, and ordained to be your Husband.” Saying this,

he, with many devout wishes, left the Princess to continue her journey. We will at present follow his example, in order to learn what befel the Princess Orinda, in pursuit of the *Magnet of true Generosity.*

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF THE  
PRINCESS ORINDA.

THE Princess Orinda, in loveliness of person, surpassed the most lavish description: She was tall, fair, finely proportioned; and, in short, might truly be considered a complete beauty: Her adventures at first consisted chiefly in acts of Benevolence to weary and distressed Travellers, as she passed on the road: Pleasing herself with the many acts of superior relief the *Magnet* would empower her to indulge herself in at her return, she pursued her journey with such speed, that she passed far beyond the turn marked out in her directory; and, during one of these reveries, she entered a dreary avenue that led her on to an old Castle, which appeared to have suffered much by the ravages of Time: The night approaching, the Princess was alarmed for

her safety; but hoping, if not from Hospitality, yet from Courtesy, some respect would be paid to her appearance, she took courage; and, after knocking, called repeatedly, but could make no one hear, to give her admittance; when, seeing a small wicket stand open, she entered, and passed through several spacious apartments, many entirely unfurnished, and spiders' webs hanging like banners from the ancient ceilings. In one of these solitary apartments she was met by an old Man, bent double with age; he was dressed in a coarse filthy-looking garment, and had every appearance of poverty about him; but, notwithstanding this, he carried a Gold Wand in his hand. //

This frightful apparition, scarcely to be called human, accosted the Princess, and, with a morose, surly tone of voice and air, demanded who she was, and what business she had there? Orinda answered, that she was travelling in pursuit of the *Magnet of true Generosity*; but that, night coming on, she had unfortunately taken a wrong path, and lost her way.— Upon this the old Man, who was a Magician, named Avarice, frowned, and lifted his hand in order to strike her; but, perceiving her to be extremely beautiful, he altered his intention; and, taking her by the hand, with a smile that seldom graced his countenance, led her to an Iron Door, at which they entered an apartment occupied by several de-

formed

formed Wretches like himself: They looked with malignity on the new-comer, as her dress and deportment bespoke her of a disposition very opposite to that of their Governor and themselves. Avarice, introducing her to this wretched assembly, declared, with an austere voice, that he thought her worthy to be his Consort; and commanded them to respect her as the Lady of his Mansion.

The poor Princess no sooner heard this dreadful sentence pronounced, than she fainted; and continued in a state of insensibility for some hours after; when she found herself laid on a miserable dirty bed, and surrounded by three or four old Females, who paid homage to her as the intended Bride of their Lord and Master, Avarice.

In a little time the Magician himself entered; and, after dismissing the attendants, addressed her in the following manner: "It appears to me, young Damsel, that you are insensible to the honour Fortune throws in your way, by rendering you agreeable to me: It is true I have paid some tribute to Time, and may not, perhaps, appear quite agreeable to the delicacy of a Maiden's eye; but the treasures it is in my power to bestow will more than compensate for my personal imperfections, were they more numerous." Saying this, he waved his wand, and Orinda

instantly

instantly perceived the room covered with heaps of Gold :  
 " You see," continued he, " what power I possess; and yet  
 " this is nothing to what I will make you mistress of, pro-  
 " vided you will consent to become my Wife. I give you  
 " one hour to consider of my proposal ; in which time re-  
 " member, that, as it is in my power to reward your com-  
 " pliance, so is it equally to punish a refusal." With these  
 words he left the unfortunate Orinda to bewail her ill-fate,  
 which first led her to enter the Castle.

No sooner was the Magician departed, than she began to consider if there was not a possibility of escaping this horrid Union, worse than death itself. She had reason to believe that Avarice, on a refusal, would proceed to extremities ; and, on the other hand, she was determined to die rather than consent to so unsuitable a match : At last a stratagem occurred to her, by which she might have some little chance of escaping ; which she executed in the following manner :

She got up, and putting on a cheerful and contented countenance, when Avarice returned for her final resolution, she received him with the greatest affability and seeming satisfaction. " I beg," said she, in a mild and penitent tone, " that you will forget my former disgust, which is now to-  
 " tally vanished : It is true our years are a little dis-  
 " portioned ;

“ portioned ; but, when I consider your kindness in making  
 “ me mistress of such vast treasure, gratitude alone would  
 “ force me to prefer you to the most accomplished young  
 “ Lover : I have only one request to make, to which if you  
 “ will agree, I am ready to wait your pleasure.”

Old Avarice, who did not expect so easy a compliance, was overjoyed ; and promised, with many protestations, to grant whatever she should desire.—“ Nay,” said the Princess, “ it is nothing more than that our Wedding may be deferred four days, in order to absolve myself from a vow which I made, never to marry without the consent of my Parents.” Avarice readily consented ; and Orinda was left to amuse herself as she thought fit. But her ideas were wholly absorbed in concerting measures for her escape: Her first endeavour was, to discover the path which originally led her to this unfortunate situation ; but, to her great mortification, that side of the Castle at which she entered was now entirely locked up: Her only hope, therefore, depended on her ascending a large barren Rock, which inclosed the back part of the Dwelling. Many times she attempted to climb up, and make her escape over this, but to no purpose, it being so extremely steep, as to baffle every effort.

In the utmost despair she now saw the morning of the fourth day approach, when, going to essay the Rock for the last time, she perceived a young Man standing on the top.— Orinda, who had no time to lose, giving him to understand, by signs, her miserable condition, he descended; and, with very little difficulty, led her to the summit. Here the Princess discovered an open plain, on which stood a superb Mansion: It was surrounded by most delightful plantations; ornamented with fine pieces of water, and gardens dressed with clumps of fragrant flowers; so that the Princess, from the contrast to that she had so lately left, fancied herself in a perfect Paradise: And thought she could never sufficiently express her gratitude to the young Man, who had delivered her from a situation which she now, if possible, considered worse than before.

As they proceeded on their way, Luxury, (for that was the name of her Conductor) informed her, that the noble Building which appeared in view belonged to Extravagance, one of the most renowned Lords in those parts; to whom himself had the honour to be chief Steward and Favourite: “ I will introduce you to my Lord,” said he, “ who is never so happy as when we can rescue any one from the power of that filthy Magician, Avarice.” As he ended these words, they entered the House. Luxury then introduced her to two

bloated

bloated Females, with ruddy countenances, who occasionally assisted when Extravagance chose to entertain the Ladies of his family: They, with Luxury, accompanied the Princess through a grand saloon into an apartment, the furniture of which was beyond all description: Elegant sofas, fringed with costly Pearl; embroidered hangings, enriched with the finest Paintings, and most superb lustres, cast a radiance round him. Here sat Extravagance, in his morning dress; he was an elegant young Man, robed in a verd-coloured silk, embroidered with silver; and buttoned to the breast by a knot of Diamonds: His hair fancifully braided, and scented with the richest perfumes. Luxury, his favourite, approached, and presented the Princess to him; informing him, that he had been so happy as to assist her in escaping from the Castle of Avarice.

Extravagance received the Princess with great politeness; and assured her, nothing made him so happy as vexing that scordid Being, whose utter extirpation he had long aimed at; and, if Example could have any influence, he was determined to destroy the reputation of Avarice, with all that knew him.

Extravagance was so struck with the beauty of the Princess, that although she was only dressed in a plain white Robe, he thought she far eclipsed any he had before seen: He

felt an unusual pleasure in viewing her ; and at last absolutely determined, in his own mind, to make her an offer of marriage : Accordingly, he began in the most insinuating manner to address her, in order to gain her affection ; which was no very difficult task, for she began already to be much captivated with his person and agreeable manner, so different from her old Lover, Avarice : But Orinda gave him to understand, that, as she was under the Guardianship of the good Benigna, she was not at liberty to encourage his addresses, till she had performed her appointed journey, and acquired the *Magnet of true Generosity*. Extravagance no sooner heard this, than he, with a smiling countenance, said, he was happy he could save her the fatigue of so tedious a journey, for that the *Magnet* was then actually in his possession, " which, said he, " I will resign the instant you become my Bride." — Orinda, not in the least doubting what he said, consented to remain his Guest a few days, till she could receive the approbation of Benigna.

The remainder of the day was spent in the highest strain of mirth and festivity, the Princess becoming more and more pleased with Extravagance, and his favourite, Luxury, whose indefatigable attention prevented even her wishes, by procuring every thing in the greatest profusion : All went on very pleasantly till the evening, when, as they were sitting at a

splendid

splendid supper, the Princess beheld, to her utter amazement, the Faces of Luxury and her intended Bridegroom gradually transformed into those of Swine. The shock was so violent that she swooned ; and was conveyed by Luxury and Extravagance, who never once suspected the cause of her disorder (being perfectly insensible to their own deformity) to a sopha ; where leaving her to the care of their two female companions, they returned to finish their nightly revels. 

But, as I am apt to believe that the readers will be impatient to learn the cause of this strange transformation, I cannot proceed without acquainting them (perhaps to their surprise) that Avarice and Extravagance were Brothers, Sons to an old Fairy called Excess. Avarice was from his birth much deformed; but Extravagance had always a pleasing form, till he got acquainted with Luxury, the offspring of a very disagreeable mixt family of the Centaurs, from whom he inherited his deformity ; and Extravagance, soon after his associating with him, grew so exactly to resemble him, as even to astonish his Mother, the Fairy Excess : However, at the request of her Son, she endowed him and his Favourite Luxury with the power of transforming themselves to any appearance they pleased, to hide their Beastly

visages, whilst the day lasted ; but no sooner did the night commence, than their natural deformity returned, of which they themselves, for the time, were ignorant.

But to return to the Princess: She spent the night, when she recovered her senses, in the greatest uneasiness, doubting whether she had now changed her situation for the better : Yet she trembled at the thought of again falling into the hands of Avarice. Notwithstanding that Extravagance and Avarice were sworn enemies, and sincerely hated each other, there was one point in which they closely united ; which was, that of intercepting the passage of those who were in search of the *Magnet of true Generosity*; knowing when That was discovered, and produced to the world, their Power of Enchantment would cease : For this grand reason, therefore, they joined interests ; and planted themselves opposite each other, near the entrance of a Road that must unavoidably be passed ; and employed their utmost art to this one essential point.

The Princess was convinced that the horrid transformation, which so much terrified her, must proceed from some evil Enchantment ; she therefore determined, if possible, to make her escape: To this end, in the morning, she rose; but now perceived

perceived the countenances of her Lover, and his Favourite, the same as when she first entered the house: She would fain have persuaded herself that what she had the night before seen was but a Dream, occasioned by restless slumbers; but, when she considered every circumstance still strong on her memory, she was too well assured of it's reality; and determined instantly to leave a place, which, notwithstanding all it's allurements, was replete with so much danger. She accordingly set out, and walked slowly forward, without the least observation; the house being in great confusion and bustle, preparing sumptuous banquets, &c.

The Princess soon arrived at the entrance of a pleasant little Wood; at the side of which, under the shade of a venerable Oak, sat a very amiable young Knight, bearing a Shield, which cast a mild, resplendent lustre round him; on it was engraved the *Shield of Moderation*. The Princess, encouraged by the Devise on his Shield, came up to him; and modestly enquired, if he could direct her to the Cave where the *Magnet of true Generosity* was to be found? The Stranger, after looking stedfastly at her, with surprise and pleasure blended in his countenance, answered, that he would conduct her thither; and asked her whether she was in pursuit of that famous *Magnet*? The Princess replied, she was: They then

walked

walked on, scarce speaking, till they arrived at the edge of a Precipice; when the Stranger addressed Orinda to this effect:

“ I am now, Madam, going to give into your possession the *Magnet* of true Generosity, which it would be impossible to attain without the *Shield* of Moderation, which you may perceive I wear: But I am losing time in words, that might be better spent in action:” Saying which, without waiting a reply, he descended the Precipice, leaving the Princess wrapt in astonishment at the top, to observe his achievements in the Valley.

No sooner did he descend, than two enraged Lions rushed from a thicket, and fell upon him; but the Knight, covering himself with his *Shield*, at one blow laid them both senseless; and was passing on to take possession of the *Magnet*, when the Princess, to her inconceivable amazement, perceived the one which was White, rise and recover, in the form of her young Lover, Extravagance; and the other, a Black one, in that of her old one, Avarice. The Knight instantly turned; and, seizing Extravagance, by the wonderful power of the *Magnet*, totally subdued him: But, in the mean while, Avarice raised a black mist, in which he escaped; and the Princess for some

some time lost sight of her noble Champion; but the air clearing, she perceived him advance, bearing the *Magnet of true Generosity* on the *Shield of Moderation*; and, ascending the Precipice, he presently laid it at her feet.

Orinda, overjoyed, expressed her gratitude in the warmest terms, declaring she could never recompence the service he had done her: "To render myself worthy of your esteem, " Madam," said the Stranger, " amply overpays the " Perils I have encountered; but you will be surprised, " when I affirm, that the Misfortunes of my whole life " have arisen from too early an acquaintance with You :" The Princess, astonished at such a charge, assured him she should not be happy unless he would oblige her with an explanation; when the Knight began his narrative in the following manner;

## The HISTORY of PRINCE MANFRED, and the SHIELD of MODERATION.

" I AM Son," said he, " to a neighbouring Monarch of great Power: My Father was of a noble and generous disposition; but my Mother, (though I would fain spare her memory,) was haughty, austere, and turbulent.

" It

“ It happened one day, when she was with child of me, that  
 “ she was walking in her garden, attended by a select Com-  
 “ pany; when an old Woman, in a tattered garment, entered  
 “ the gates; and, hastily advancing towards her, asked her  
 “ Charity: My Mother, provoked at the ill-timed intrusion,  
 “ ordered those in waiting to drive that insolent wretch  
 “ out of the Gardens, little imagining whom she had to  
 “ deal with; for this old Woman was a Fairy, who, turn-  
 “ ing her eyes with indignation on my Mother, “ Your  
 “ Son,” said she, “ shall die of a wound received from a  
 “ Shadow;” and immediately disappeared.

“ This unfortunate circumstance threw the whole Com-  
 “ pany into confusion; and my Mother was sincerely vexed  
 “ at her own imprudence, in treating the supplications of  
 “ Distress with contempt, though she could by no means  
 “ comprehend the words which the old Fairy had uttered.  
 “ I was born however; and, till I was eighteen years of age,  
 “ lived free from any particular accident; in which time  
 “ my Mother totally forgot the prediction that had formerly  
 “ given her so much disquiet.

“ One day, being weary with the fatigues of the Chase, I  
 “ threw myself on a grassy bank, and fell into a profound  
 “ sleep;

" Sleep ; during which time I dreamt that a beautiful young  
 " Woman stood before me ; and, taking me by the hand,  
 " bid me rise, and save her from destruction : Upon which I  
 " started up, and awoke. This dream made such an im-  
 " pression on my imagination, that my thoughts ran con-  
 " tinually on it. I could never forget the charming figure  
 " I had seen ; which seemed to surpass every thing  
 " human, for loveliness of appearance : In a little time, I  
 " began to lose all relish for the diversions of the Court,  
 " my sole delight being the contemplation of this extra-  
 " ordinary Vision : So that, by degrees, I fell into a deep  
 " melancholy.

" My Mother endeavoured, by every art, to discover the  
 " cause of my distemper ; but I as carefully concealed it ;  
 " being convinced it was beyond the power of any human  
 " assistance to afford me relief : Finding her efforts vain,  
 " and that my malady daily increased, she soon broke her  
 " heart with grief ; and died, lamenting her harshness in  
 " offending the Fairy, by whose means she was certain this  
 " misfortune fell upon me.

" It happened, as I was walking in the most gloomy part  
 " of a Forest, indulging my melancholy, which the death of  
 " my Mother had contributed to increase, that I was met

" by an aged Fairy, who addressed me, near as I can remember,  
 " to this effect: " I am the Fairy," said she, " whom your  
 " Mother was so indiscreet as to irritate: She has paid dearly  
 " for her folly, and I am appeased: Fly instantly to the  
 " Forest, on this side of the Precipice, which guards the  
 " Magnet of true Generosity; and take this Shield," said she,  
 " presenting me this with which you see me now armed; " it  
 " is the Shield of Moderation; which will preserve you from  
 " the power of two evil Enchanters, Avarice, and Extra-  
 " vagance; who would otherwise obstruct your passage on  
 " that Road: There shall the evil, which in the bite  
 " terneſs of my wrath I entailed on you, subſide:" Saying  
 " this, she disappeared; and I instantly set out, and arrived  
 " at the Forest three days ago, when the Fairy again spoke  
 " to me; bidding me remember, that only by the power of  
 " the Shield of Moderation could the Magnet of true Generosity  
 " be obtained: After which, she again vanished; and I was  
 " presently accosted by You, whom I instantly discovered  
 " to be the exact resemblance of that beautiful Figure I had  
 " seen in my Dream.

" Thus, Madam," said he, " I have related the strange  
 " accident which has imbibited a part of my last years: It  
 " now

“ now remains in your breast, whether, by permitting me to  
 “ accompany you back to your Parents, and obtain their  
 “ consent to an union, you make me happy; or, by  
 “ your refusal, doom me to misery and wretchedness for  
 “ ever.”

The Princess, with a frankness which particularly marked her character, gave her hand to the Knight, telling him she must return to the Fairy Benigna, under whose protection her Royal Mother had placed her, and that he might accompany her thither, The Knight, greatly rejoiced at this permission, now thought all his cares at an end. X

As they were travelling, the Princess, casting her eyes downward, perceived that she sat her foot on a large piece of Gold Ore; which, with the assistance of the Prince, she, with some difficulty, raised from the ground: But judge their amazement, when they discovered it led, by a flanting path underneath it, to an arch-way! Their curiosity induced them to descend; and, having walked a few paces underground, by a glimmering light, they arrived at an Iron Door, over which was written, “ The Golden Grove:” This raised their curiosity still more, and induced them to open it; when they were struck with an entire Grove of Golden Trees; and,

looking further, perceived, interspersed, several statues of Gold.

Orinda and the Prince had not stood long to examine these phenomena, when they heard a deep groan, which they found to proceed from a Golden Rock; but they had scarce time for reflection, before the Princess heard the following words whispered in her ear, by a voice resembling that of Benigna.

“ The Charms of Avarice can’t withstand,  
“ The powerful *Magnet* in your hand.”

The Princess did not entirely comprehend this sentence; but was determined she would try her *Magnet*: Accordingly she touched the Rock with it, which instantly disappeared, and Matilda, her younger Sister, who set out in pursuit of the *Wand of Contentment*, instantly flew to her embraces.

“ My dear Sister,” said Orinda, “ am I really awake, or is this a dream? For Heaven’s sake, how came you in this dreadful situation?” “ Alas!” replied Matilda, “ my mis- fortunes are too numerous to relate in this place, where

“ we

" we are every moment in danger, from an accursed Magician who rules here: Behold," said she, pointing to the statutes, " those Monuments of his art!" When Orinda understood this, she immediately, by the wonderful power of the *Magnet*, broke the Enchantment; and saw the Grove filled with Ladies and Gentlemen, who fell at her feet, returning thanks for this fortunate release.

The Princess Orinda was no sooner acquainted that the underground passage, she and the Prince had ventured, led her again to the Castle of Avarice, than she informed them of her late escape; and acquainted them of the terrors she experienced in the house of his Brother, Extravagance: At this they sighed; and told her, the idea of that Enchanter had so affected their minds, that, to avoid being captivated by his alluring invitations, on a tour they were making, should he meet them on the Road, they had been induced to turn directly contrary, where they lost themselves; and wandering still more from a middle road, (which a part of their company asserted there was, and therefore left them) they travelled on a short time, till they heard a variety of voices; and, hoping from these to get directions to the better road, they followed the sound till they heard one of them say, with great vehemence, "I will ruin Extravagance." We then approached

proached, and informing the person who was speaking, that we had wandered so far out of our way, as even to disregard many Travellers we met on the road, on pretence that we dare not stop so near Extravagance: On saying this, we received a general invitation to sleep in the Castle of Avarice, for such we found he was who spoke to us.

As we entered the place, nothing looked cheerful; he entertained us very frugally; and, after the repast, conversed with us on the powers of some pieces of rich Metals he drew from his purse; which, he said, by keeping constantly in his pocket, drove from his door every evil; and observed so well on the rule of self-preservation, that we all gave a look of acquiescence; when he instantly waved a Wand he held, and transformed us into the Rocks and Statues from which your inestimable *Magnet* has relieved us.

Orinda, convinced of the valuable properties of the *Magnet*, bid them fear nothing from the Enchanter's power, and entreated the Princess Matilda to lead her to the Magician; which she, not without some apprehensions, complied with; and conducted them to the apartments of Avarice, her old Lover. At first Orinda shuddered; but, remembering that the *Magnet* rendered her far beyond his power,

power, they proceeded to a barricaded Door, which instantly, at her touch, flew open. Here, attended by the Prince, Orinda entered, and discovered Avarice sitting in the midst of Gold, attended by a miserable assembly, habited like himself: He no sooner cast his eyes on the *Magnet*, than he trembled, well knowing that his power was at an end, and let the Gold Wand drop from his hand, which was instantly taken up and broke in pieces by Orinda.

Whilst Avarice, divested of his art, saved himself and his companions by flight from the dreaded touch of the *Magnet*, in the mean time the Princess Matilda was busily employed, at one corner of the room, searching a vast heap of Gold; and, at last, with great toil, drew from beneath it a delicate white Wand.—No other than her long lost and lamented *Wand of Contentment*, which Avarice had buried, and secured from the reach of all, under that immense heap of metal. She had scarce obtained possession of it, when the habitation began to tremble; and they were, in an instant, conveyed to a lofty Mountain, at some distance from whence they perceived the Castle of Avarice shivered to atoms.

After this Prince Manfred, with the two Princesses, continued their journey to the Fairy Benigna; while the Princess Matilda, on their way, related her adventures as follows.

## THE

A D V E N T U R E S  
 O F THE  
 PRINCESS MATILDA.

IT was not long after I had left our good friend Benigna, that I was accosted by a little Man about a span high: He had a countenance the most pleasant, and wore a green Mantle, covered with shells: "Well, pretty Lady," said he, smiling, "whither are you travelling this fine day?" I replied, "That I had undertaken a very long journey, in hopes of obtaining one of the greatest treasures in the world." "What may that be?" answered the little Man; I told him, "the *White Wand of Contentment*." "You mistake," returned he, "the journey is not so far as you imagine; the *Wand* lies in the Island of Pleasure, but a trifling distance from this place; if you are willing to be guided by me, I will instantly conduct you thither."

Overjoyed that Fortune had provided me a guide so agreeable, I readily resigned myself to his protection; which done, I found myself at the side of the sea.

My Conductor struck the water with a Wand he held in his hand, when immediately a Boat appeared on its surface; in which having seated ourselves, we pushed from the shore, and sailed briskly till we came in view of a beautiful green Island: As we drew nigh, the breezes that blew from it wafted the most delightful concert of music to our ears; and, on the banks, I descried several parties of young Men and Women, agreeably amusing themselves; some dancing, others singing, or angling in the water that surrounded the Island.

This gave such an unusual flow to my spirits, that I thought every minute an hour, till I could join this happy Society: At length, to my inexpressible joy, the Boat drew to shore; and my Conductor landed me on the Island where he had told me the *Wand of Contentment* was to be found.

But what was my astonishment, to observe the delights I had awaited, with so much eagerness, entirely vanished! The company, the music, the diversions, totally disappeared; nothing but a large tract of desert land now saluted my eye. I turned, in order to express my consternation, to my little guide;

guide; but, alas! to my great mortification, he had likewise deserted me: Thus left, as I imagined, in an uninhabited Island, I was on the point of giving myself up to the first transports of grief; when my ear was again struck with the sounds of several musical instruments, blended with human voices, which, on looking, I discovered to proceed from an elegant Palace, in the midst of a wood. Delighted at this discovery, I set out, with a light heart, to gain admittance; but after deluding me some time, now seeming near, and then at an immense distance, it wholly disappeared.

Stung to the soul with vexation, and almost famished with hunger and thirst, I wandered till, at a little distance, I perceived a company of Ladies and Gentlemen, fitting very joyous at a splendid repast.—I made all possible speed towards them, being determined that these, if possible, should not escape me; but alas! I had no sooner approached, as I thought, within reach, than these, like the rest, entirely vanished. Exhausted with disappointment, I cast myself on the ground, giving myself over for lost; when a sedate-looking Fairy stood before me, and, in a mild tone of voice, bade me rise: “ You have done wrong, young Maiden,” said she, “ by trusting yourself to the conduct of a Stranger. “ That little Man who steered you to this place is False “ Hope, the genius of this Island, which is called the

“ *Floating Island of Disappointment* : He makes it his business  
 “ to allure as many into his Boat, as will trust themselves  
 “ to his guidance, which is too frequently the case of  
 “ many unfortunate sufferers, who are overpowered by his  
 “ specious pretences; but he has no sooner landed them,  
 “ than he deserts them, leaving the unhappy Victims to  
 “ wander in pursuit of the Shadows that inhabit the Island;  
 “ till, worn with the delusion, they pine away and become  
 “ Shadows themselves, which serve to delude others into the  
 “ same situation.” She then told me that her name was  
 Reflexion, and, striking me with her Wand, I was in-  
 instantly transported back to the place where I first became  
 acquainted with the little Man. 

Rejoiced, as you may imagine, to be once more in a land  
 of Substantials, I continued my journey, unmolested, till the  
 close of the evening, when I lost my way, as I was passing  
 over a Chain of sandy Mountains, in which, unfortu-  
 nately for me, were many Quicksands; here, on a sudden,  
 I felt something like a Trap catch hold of my feet, which  
 rendered me incapable of moving, and I was obliged to  
 content myself till morning. My mind was so soured by  
 this vexatious interruption, added to the severe disappoint-  
 ments I had met with in the *Floating Island*, that I felt an  
 accusing Thought rise in my breast against Benigna: “ She,”

said

said I to myself, " supremely happy in her Grotto, feels not  
" the toils she has sent me to encounter.

Thus I passed the night with murmur and disquiet; and it was scarce day-light when I observed the Mountains covered by a company of Faires, but to describe the horror of their appearance is impossible; believe me, therefore, when I assure you, that imagination cannot do justice to their deformity. They advanced directly towards the place on which I stood; when one of them, which appeared to be their Chief, came to me, and, uttering some words which I could not understand, released me from my confinement; but, immediately seizing my hand, she led me, amidst the shouts and acclamations of her numerous companions, to a Den, in the most gloomy part of those dreadful Mountains. Here they crowded round a large Caldron, and fell to performing some diabolical rites: which done, they produced a cup of the poisonous mixture, and compelled me, half dead with affright, to drink, bidding me welcome to their Society.

But I had no sooner tasted, than I felt the Venom, quick as thought, circulate through every vein; and rushing from the Den with agony, to the infinite diversion of the assembly, proceeded

proceeded to allay the raging thirst and heat I felt in a fountain : But how shall I express my horror, when I perceived the reflection of myself in the water no longer Human, but an enormous Serpent : Words cannot paint what I felt at this moment ; I was totally wild with grief, and, darting into a wood, stung every living creature in my way ; and at last cast my Sting into the foot of a Person who sat reclined beneath a tree.

The Person started, and I looked up ; but superior misery crowded on me, when I perceived it to be our dear benefactress the Fairy Benigna. I stopped short, and, in an instant, from the utmost savageness, became fixed in a state of stupefaction to the place ; when Benigna, looking down with that sweetness natural to her, struck me with her Wand, and I instantly returned to my former shape. I threw myself at her feet in the greatest agitation, and attempted to embrace them ; but she raised me in her arms, and tenderly caressed me, saying, " The poignancy of your present feelings atone for those guilty Murmuring which have so lately escaped you. It is Envy, whose poisonous Mixture converted you into a Serpent ; and such is her malignity to me, that she makes it her business to set those Spells abroad, in order to frustrate the attempts of those

" who

" who are in pursuit of the *Wand of Contentment* ; and  
 " so vigilant is she in placing her snares, that they too often  
 " prove fatal."

Benigna again embracing me, took me by the hand, and conducted me till we came in view of the Plains, where she informed me the *Wand* was to be found ; and then left me to continue my way. I presently arrived at those delightful plains, where, suffice it to say, every Charm I had imagined in my voyage to the *Floating Island of Disappointment*, was here surpassed in reality ; and I received the *Wand of Contentment* from two beautiful Infants, one named *Innocence*, and the other *Cheerfulness* : From hence I turned, in order to pursue my way to the Grotto of our dear Benigna ; but, towards evening, was overtaken by a violent storm, and again bewildered in a tract of barren land.

In a little time I was accosted by a tall meagre Woman, with every wretchedness stamped on her countenance ; and scarce covered from the inclemency of the weather, by an old ragged garment. With a civil demeanour, she invited me to shelter myself from the storm in her Hovel hard by. I did not by any means like its appearance ; yet, perceiving no other remedy, I followed her into the most miserable

miserable shod ever seen. I had not been long here, before I recollect'd the qualities of the *Wand* I had just acquired, which had the power of rendering the most disagreeable objects in nature agreeable.

I determined now to make a trial of it, and accordingly waved it, when, in an instant, the shattered Hovel was converted to a neat little thatched Cottage, with a comfortable fire blazing on the hearth; the tractless Desert, to a small spot of cultivated land to surround it; and my hostess, whose name was Poverty, no more appeared wan and meagre, but plumped up to a smiling fresh-coloured Country Lass; and all this wonderful change was wrought by the powerful *White Wand of Contentment*.

I passed the night here very comfortably; and, after taking a friendly leave of my Hostess in the morning, again set forward, and travelled the forenoon without any adventure; till coming to a shady thicket, I laid me on a bank and fell asleep. How long I slept I am uncertain; but when I awoke I perceived Avarice, the Magician, standing by me, who had taken possession of my Wand. I entreated him to return it; but, instead of complying with my request, he ran with all his might, and descended the subterraneous passage, bidding me

follow.

follow, which I did in hopes of regaining it. But we had no sooner entered the Golden Grove, than he struck me with his Wand, and I instantly became fixed to the place where you found me, in a Rock of Gold. There, doubtless, I must for ever have remained, had not the *Magnet of Generosity* released me.

The young Princess finished her relation as they came to a pleasant little cottage: they were met at the entrance by a beautiful young Lady, who, with great tenderness, embraced the two Princesses; but they could not by any means recollect that they had ever, before that time, seen her; till, to their joy and amazement, she informed them that she was their Sister Bonnetta, whom the *Mantle of Meekness* had rendered so completely lovely.

This little house belonged to an agreeable and hospitable old Man, named Peace, who kindly entertained them; after which they joined company with Bonnetta, who was likewise on her way; and, in a short time, arrived at the Grotto of Benigna, where their two sisters, Florissa and Miranda, with their Knights, had entered the minute before them: When the first transports at meeting were over, the Fairy, who knew by her art all that had happened, took the Princess Bonnetta by the hand, and introduced the strange Knight, in company with Florissa and Gentle Reproof, who was no

other than her favourite Knight of the Silver Shield. He was struck with her beauty, which, he thought, eclipsed that of the whole assembly.

Benigna then ordered intelligence to the Royal Parents, of the return of the Princesses, and their several achievements; also the merits of the Knights who accompanied them back to her Grotto, whose virtues rendered them worthy of an union with the Princesses they sought. Benigna, addressing herself to Gentle Reproof, "The *Cestus*," said she, "of which you are in pursuit, is now in the possession of the Princess Florissa," who, looking down, perceived her waist encircled by the Girdle, which transformed her from a Bear to a white Pigeon, which, Benigna informed her, was the *Cestus of Civility*. She then united their hands; as those of the Prince Ofymandyas and Miranda; and Manfred and Orinda; whilst the Princess Bonetta was employed in discovering to her Knight the share she had in his adventures; all which being adjusted, he related the latter part of them as follows:

The Sequel of the ADVENTURES of the  
KNIGHT of the SILVER SHIELD.

“ AFTER I had departed from the Castle of Pride, I continued my way, ruminating on the strange adventures which had there befallen me; when presently I found myself benighted in the midst of a wide Forest. I wandered, unknowing which path to take, till at a distance I perceived the faint glimmer of a taper. I made what speed I could towards it, and entered a Cavern, from whence I found it proceeded; where, by the reflection of a lamp that hung on the wall, I discovered an aged Hermit on the point of expiring. He cast his eyes on me, and made signs that I should approach him, when he addressed me in these words; “Stranger,” said he, “on what adventure soever you are bent, it is Mercy which has doubtless sent you hither. I am Albubeca, the Hermit of the White Rock, whose fame probably has reached your ear; I have run my course, and my hour is at hand; listen, therefore, attentively to these my last words:

" Not far from hence," said he, " I have erected a tomb :  
 " Immediately when my breath is departed, deposit my  
 " body there, with this Rod (which he at the same time  
 " put into my hands) : As you shall prosper, fail not this my  
 " last request; and, as a recompence, I will give into your  
 " possession one of the most valuable treasures. I assured  
 " him I would execute what he desired, and vowed to keep  
 " my promise inviolate : He then presented me with a Wand,  
 " which he informed me would instantly possess me of every  
 " wish that tended to the advantage of myself or others ; and  
 " then, without a groan, expired."

At this narrative, the face of the Princess Bonetta was  
 bedewed with tears, and the Knight ceased, whilst she paid  
 this tribute to the memory of her kind protector, the Her-  
 mit of the White Rock. After which he continued.

" The Hermit was no sooner dead, than I proceeded to  
 " prove the power of the Wand he had put into my hands ;  
 " and found it endowed as he had asserted. Charmed with  
 " my success, I determined to make trial of the Rod like-  
 " wise ; which, I was fully persuaded, from his earnest de-  
 " sire to have it entombed with him, must inherit superior  
 " qualities. I accordingly waved it ; and discovered that it  
 " had

“ had an equal power of gratifying my wishes; but with this difference, that as the Wand fulfilled the good only, so the Rod solely possessed me of the evil.

“ When I had obtained this information, I determined rather to break my faith with Albubeca, than to forego a treasure of such magnitude; which I considered, together with the Wand, would render my power unlimited. In the morning, therefore, I deposited the body of the Hermit; and set forward, without the least remorse, possessed not only of the Wand, but of the Rod also.

“ Having travelled a considerable distance, scarce meeting any one, about noon I was accosted by an old Pilgrim: He professed himself following the same tract; and pleasantly, for society, offered to accompany me. We journied together some time, when my companion growing weary, proposed that we should repose ourselves in a little thicket; and, in order to pass the time, relate to each other our adventures. To this I readily consented; and being seated began first, by recounting what happened to me in the Castle of Pride; not forgetting the circumstance of the Ring, which still remained on my finger; and concluding with

“ my

“ Not far from hence,” said he, “ I have erected a tomb: “ Immediately when my breath is departed, deposit my “ body there, with this Rod (which he at the same time “ put into my hands): As you shall prosper, fail not this my “ last request; and, as a recompence, I will give into your “ possession one of the most valuable treasures. I assured “ him I would execute what he desired, and vowed to keep “ my promise inviolate: He then presented me with a Wand, “ which he informed me would instantly possess me of every “ wish that tended to the advantage of myself, or others; and “ then, without a groan, expired.”

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 “ gan first, by recounting what happened to me in the Castle  
 “ of Pride; not forgetting the circumstance of the Ring,  
 “ which still remained on my finger; and concluding with

“ my

“ my remarkable adventure in the Cave of the Hermit of the  
 & White Rock.

“ When I had ended, my companion entreated that I  
 would suffer him to examine the Ring I brought from the  
 Giant’s Castle. Suspecting no evil intention, I pulled it  
 from my finger, and put it on that of the Pilgrim ; but  
 what was my surprise, when he refused to return it ? At  
 first I imagined he jested ; I struggled with him to regain  
 my Ring, and, unfortunately, let the Wand fall from  
 my hand, which he seized, and fled from me with incre-  
 dible swiftness.

“ I pursued in order to overtake him, but that being vain,  
 I grew frantic with rage, and suspended my Rod, when I  
 perceived a huge Monster rise from the earth, vomiting  
 a flood of liquid matter, which set on fire forests, cities,  
 and villages without number ; so that it was with difficulty  
 I saved myself from the general conflagration : But on a  
 sudden the Monster disappeared, and a beautiful Wo-  
 man stood before me, who told me that her name was  
 Justice. “ You are fully punished,” said she, taking the  
 Rod from my hand, “ you have grasped at power you  
 were

" were incapable of commanding, and by that means have  
 " lost that which you might have possessed with honour and  
 " security : By exercising the Rod, which by Revenge is en-  
 " dowed, you have forfeited the Wand, put by Mercy into  
 " the hand of Albubeca. " Ill," said she, looking towards  
 " heaven, " is the *Rod of Retribution* fitted to the hand of a  
 " mortal; it is a Sceptre which unerring Justice alone should  
 " wield." : Saying this, she vanished in a radiant cloud; and  
 " conveyed the fatal Rod for ever from my sight.

" I strolled along reflecting on my folly, when perceiving  
 " a Boat which belonged to some Fishermen, I entered,  
 " with an intent to abandon a land, the sight of which filled  
 " my soul with remorse; but had not sailed far, before I was  
 " cast upon a rock, where an old Fairy appeared; and the  
 " horror of her figure made such an impression on my  
 " imagination, that I think I shall never forget. She  
 " told me, though I might not recollect, that her name was  
 " Revenge; and assured me, that if I would submit myself  
 " to her government, notwithstanding Justice had deprived  
 " me of the Rod, she would bestow on me equal Power  
 " with herself; a power so malignant my soul then abhorred;  
 " but she prevailed by her art so far, as to drag me to an

" en-

" enchanted torrent, in which she plunged me: I have since  
 " heard it was the Torrent of Fury; I was carried, by the  
 " force of the current, a considerable way from the abode  
 " of Revenge, when Gentle Reproof, who was riding at  
 " some distance, saw me struggling in the current; and,  
 " anxious to preserve me from danger, held out his hand  
 " to assist me; but my brain was so greatly inflamed by the  
 " waters of Fury, that I dared him to a combat; and most  
 " probably should have furnished myself with a load of guilt  
 " and misery for ever, by destroying him, had not the ami-  
 " able Princess Florissa interposed, and, by the valuable  
 " liquor of *Good-nature*, restored the use of my senses:"  
 Here the Prince ceased, and Florissa was going to express  
 her thanks to Benigna, for the valuable gift she had en-  
 dowed her with, when a messenger arrived from the King,  
 her Father, to inform the Princesses that his subjects, wearied  
 with the sanguine cruelties of the conquering Prince, had  
 most affectionately petitioned his return to the government  
 of his kingdom.

After this happy news, Benigna, looking with a smile of  
 affection and pleasure on the company, and waving her  
 Wand, they were instantly transported to a temple that totally  
 eclipsed

eclipsed every thing the Princesses had before seen in their travels; over the entrance was written, in golden letters, on a white scroll, "The Temple of Virtue."

" You are now my children," said Benigna, " going to receive the reward due to your toils and virtue;" but she had scarce time to pronounce these words, before a beautiful Figure descended, whom the Princess Bonnetta and the Knight of the Silver Shield knew to be Justice: She was encircled with a radiance that illumined the whole Temple; and, having advanced to Benigna, thus addressed her, " You are on the point," said she, " of rewarding Virtue; but shall Vice, therefore, remain unpunished? No; Heaven will not permit it; the arrow of Vengeance is only slow; but to render the stroke more sure, once more," said she, " have I rescued the *Rod of Retribution* from the power of Revenge;" " take it," continued she, to Benigna, " thou alone art worthy to hold it; I have endowed it with an attractive power no evil can withstand; all will impulsively obey its summons, and attend at this tribunal, to give account of their good or evil deeds: Let them then be tried by the never-erring touch of the *Spear of Truth*; and doomed to undergo that punishment the nature of their crimes shall require."

After this she disappeared, and returned to her eternal abode, the Celestial Island: She was no sooner gone than Benigna waved her Wand, and the good King and Queen appeared; whose happiness it is impossible to describe, when they first beheld their long-absent children. After most affectionately embracing each other, the guardian Fairy summoned the respective Parents of the Knights, that they might all partake the pleasure of seeing their children receive the reward acquired by their virtues.

Benigna thus seating herself on a throne of ivory, summoned the Princess Clementina, who was in possession of the *Spear of Truth*; and seating her on her right hand, waved the *Rod of Retribution*; when the Temple was presently filled with all ranks and degrees of Fairies, good and evil; for the good were likewise drawn hither to see the evil punished.

Benigna then proceeded to give hearing to the several Causes now before her. The first that appeared was a most hideous phantom, which struck terror through the whole Assembly, whom the Princess Clementina recollects to be no other than the spectre, Evil Conscience, her constant tormentor in the Castle of Falsehood: He advanced, leading an old Female, equally deformed with himself, whom the Princess Florissa remembered to be Ill Fame, who transformed

her to a black Bear. "Most high and mighty," said he, addressing Benigna, "we are summoned before thy dreadful tribunal, by the irresistible power of the *Rod of Retribution*, to receive sentence for ill deeds: It is true we owe our origin to sin; yet, would you listen attentively to our history, you will find that we have at least not been detrimental to the cause of Virtue." This speech raised the curiosity of the whole assembly; and with the permission of Benigna he related his history as follows:

The HISTORY of EVIL CONSCIENCE and  
ILL FAME.

“ YOU must understand, Madam,” said the Spectre,  
“ that Female (pointing to Ill Fame) and myself, are Bro-  
“ ther and Sister, the offspring of an Enchantress, named  
“ Sin, who has, for many ages, resided in a deep gloomy  
“ Vale, where she has erected a large Mansion, and deco-  
“ rated it with many alluring devices, to attract the unwary  
“ Traveller: Our Mother is by nature ugly, I must confess;  
“ and, did she not by her Magic assume a false appearance,  
“ every one would fly with horror and disgust from her; but  
“ such is her power, that she generally contrives to cast a  
“ mask over her outward form, by which means she cap-  
“ tivates the senses of those who submit themselves to her  
“ dominion.

“ Sin lived many years triumphant in her habitation,  
“ which was continually filling with company, herself se-  
“ cure, as she thought, from controul; till, unfortunately, she  
“ got acquainted with Shame, who, after much importunity,  
“ at length persuaded her to marry him. From that time my  
“ Mother

“ Mother perceived her empire gradually decreased; and  
 “ that company did not flock so much to her habitation as  
 “ before; for my Father had something so forbidding in his  
 “ countenance and manners, as by no means to ingratiate  
 “ himself with the guests of my Mother.

“ However, all went on amicably till the year after, when  
 “ my Mother was delivered of twins;—Myself, whom she  
 “ called Evil Conscience,—and my Sister, who was named  
 “ Ill Fame: But instead of this event producing joy, it was  
 “ quite otherwise, for we were both so extremely deformed,  
 “ as to terrify even our natural Parents. My Mother en-  
 “ deavoured, by her great skill in magic, to conceal our de-  
 “ formity; but, alas! to no purpose, for we every day dis-  
 “ covered it more and more; and became withal so spiteful,  
 “ that many were fearful of approaching us, even when  
 “ mere infants.

“ My Sister, indeed, was much bolder, and possessed  
 “ more strength of body than myself; she would openly fly  
 “ in the faces of our guests, and disfigure them in a most  
 “ horrible manner with her nails; but though I did not pro-  
 “ ceed to such open violence, I was not less spiteful: It was  
 “ my constant delight and employment to steal, unper-  
 “ ceived, behind the chairs of our guests, and divert myself

“ by

" by running thorns into their sides, then bursting into a fit  
 " of laughter at the agonies I had occasioned. In this  
 " manner, as we grew in years, we continued to grow in  
 " cruelties; and, by degrees, drove many, who had not been  
 " long used to our tyranny, from the place of our abode, to  
 " the great dissatisfaction of my Mother, whose study it was  
 " to increase her acquaintance as much as possible. But  
 " though this sport gave offence to her, it was matter of high  
 " entertainment to two Hags, who were constant visitors at  
 " our Mansion, viz. Envy, and her bosom friend the Black  
 " Fairy Malice: They were both extravagantly fond of my  
 " Sister Ill Fame; and now that she was grown to maturity,  
 " determined to endow her with a gift by which she might  
 " give full scope to the natural rancour of her disposition,  
 " which it was their busines always to encourage.

" This was the power of transforming whatever she should  
 " think proper into the most hideous form,—Bears, Wolves,  
 " Tygers, &c. nor did she fail to make such constant use of  
 " the gift, that in a little time our Mansion was so thinned of  
 " its guests, that my mother, finding no remonstrances would  
 " prevail, at length, quite enraged, turned us both out of  
 " doors: We were now left to provide for ourselves; and  
 " were ascending the summit of the vale where my Mother's  
 " abode stood, when we were stopped by Justice, who, well  
 " knowing

" knowing the miseries we should occasion, were we left un-  
 " restrained to torment the world at large, compelled us to  
 " practise our diabolical arts on the wicked alone; ever re-  
 " maining the constant attendants on ill deeds: She then  
 " disappeared, after allowing me the power of assuming any  
 " shape I pleased, to chastise Vice. Numberless adventures  
 " have I met with, too tedious to relate; ever chastising in  
 " the form of the injured party. ~~X~~

" I remember I once got into the house of the Magician  
 " Avarice, whom I tormented in various forms; sometimes  
 " by placing the shades of injured widows and orphans be-  
 " fore his eyes, with other distressed objects: Frequently  
 " he shut himself up, and endeavoured to barricade me out  
 " with bars of iron, but to no purpose; I was his constant  
 " tormentor, till the *Magnet of true Generosity* was found,  
 " which entirely destroyed him and his Brother Extravagance,  
 " who was likewise frequently under my chastisement. In  
 " short, there is not any of the vicious train with whom I  
 " have not been intimately acquainted,—Pride, Malice,  
 " Envy, and Ingratitude; and others too numerous to  
 " relate; and whom, though reluctantly, they being such  
 " very old and constant companions, I am now ready to  
 " accuse, as sworn enemies to the cause of Virtue. My last  
 " residence

“ residence was with Falsehood, where I continued till  
 “ drawn with my Sister hither by the *Rod of Justice*. Thus  
 “ you see, Madam, though the offspring of Sin, Heaven has  
 “ ordained us the scourge of our Parents, with whom alone  
 “ our being can end.”

Here the Spectre finished; and Benigna commanded Ill Fame to relate her adventures; but she excused herself, saying, that they bore such a similarity to those of her Brother, that it would be only repetition: She owned, however, that she was not always confined to attend on ill deeds alone, as her Friends Envy and Malice could sometimes, by their magic, counteract the decree of Justice, by which means she was frequently left at liberty to exercise her art on the innocent for a certain time; but that Justice never failed in the end to overrule the magic of Envy and Malice. She ended with assuring Benigna, that although she sometimes chastised the innocent in lieu of the guilty, yet she had certainly been more instrumental in suppressing Vice, than her brother; as her art stamped deformity on the outward form; to the truth of which the Princess Florissa could witness, by which the world was made acquainted with the nature of their crimes; while Evil Conscience seldom made use of his art but to chastise in private, which was not near so effectual.

Here

Here the Spectre, with great vehemence, interrupted her :  
 " You are wrong, Madam, you are wrong," said he, " Solitude adds double stings to the torment I inflict ; the preference must therefore certainly be given to me : Besides, am I not your brother ? how then dare you pretend to superiority ! " " You are an impertinent blockhead," replied Ill Fame, with a shrill voice, " and if you utter another syllable, I will give you a convincing and severe proof of the superiority of my power." Evil Conscience was going to reply, not in the most gentle strain, and a violent fray would certainly have ensued, had not Benigna commanded decency and silence ; and after touching them with the *Spear of Truth*, to prove their assertions just, set them on one side, and ordered Treachery to appear for chastisement — the old Man, whose seducing softness of address enticed the Princess Bonnetta into his Dungeon.

He came forward with a crafty and affected smile of complacency on the whole assembly ; but, casting his eyes around, he observed an attendant in Benigna's train that struck him with consternation and terror ; this was the **NOBLE FAIRY SINCERITY**, whose province he had often attempted to invade. She was dressed in an azure robe, and her shoulders covered with a mantle of bright Aurora : She no sooner gave a look towards Treachery, than he turned to the Black

Fairies with an abject supplicating gesture, as if hoping, by their assistance, to be protected from that dreaded annihilation his guilty mind foreboded ; but even Malice and Envy inclined their faces from him, and the whole of Benigna's companions viewed him with abhorrence.

The NOBLE FAIRY, smiling on them with a serene and stedfast dignity in her countenance, approached towards him, when, trembling with fear, he fell at her feet, and Sincerity instantly placing her foot on his neck, he totally disappeared. Benigna's face shone with a peculiar brightness on this occasion, and gave Sincerity a salute of congratulation ; in which she was most reciprocally joined by all present, while the Princess Bonetta, seizing her hand with the cordiality of a bosom friend, entreated that Sincerity would never leave her.

The next was a beautiful Lady, with a young damsel bearing her train,—no other than Falsehood, and her hand-maid Flattery : They were asked by the Fairy what they had to offer in their defence : Falsehood, in a very florid speech, declared, she was summoned wrongfully to the bar ; that she was a person of large fortune, who kept open house to all Travellers, and could recollect no crime in the world

world she had ever been guilty of ; then concluded, entreating Benigna to release her and her damsel. " Ay " do, dear Lady," said Flattery, " it is beneath you, whose " name is blazed so far abroad for virtue, beauty, mercy, " justice :" — She was going on with these insinuating compliments, when Benigna interrupted her ; " Your very speech, " young Woman," said she smiling, " betrays you to be " Flattery, who has deluded so many into the Mansion of " your mistress Falsehood ; however, every one here will be " tried by the *Spear of Truth* ; if you are able to stand its " touch, you will instantly be released ; if not, you must " abide the punishment I shall think proper to inflict,"

She then commanded Clementina to strike Falsehood with the *Spear* ; when, astonishing to behold ! her beauty, which was but a mask put on to hide her deformity, disappeared ; her beautiful jetty ringlets were converted to horrid snakes ; her complexion grew wrinkled ; her body deformed ; and her eyes, before soft and languishing, were starting like two fiery meteors from their sockets with fury ; while shame and confusion darkened her countenance.

Hypocrisy was now called,—the old Hermit who so artfully deluded the Princess Clementina to the Mansion of

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**Falsehood** : The Knight of the Silver Shield immediately knew him to be the treacherous Pilgrim who defrauded him of the *Ring of Humility*, and the Wand given him by Albubeca. He, with many specious pretences, endeavoured to elude the much-dreaded Spear ; " Alas ! " said he, " why would you draw me from my peaceful hermitage ; I have never been conversant in scenes of busy life ; why then cannot I glide in peace to my native dust ? No crime has stained my guiltless years." " It is false," said Evil Conscience, stepping forward, " and the *Spear of Truth* will prove it." ~~X~~

Clementina then touched him ; when the Wand and the Ring, which still remained in his possession, dropped instantly from his hand ; and he fell grovelling down to an enormous Crocodile. Clementina was so terrified, that she would have fled, but Benigna prevented her, and thus addressed the Knight of the Silver Shield ; " This Wand," said she, " which by your imprudence fell into the possession of Hypocrisy, is mine : It was, at my desire, put by Mercy into the hand of the good Albubeca, as a check to the power of Revenge ; had you kept your faith, and enclosed her fatal Rod in the Hermit's tomb, you would have escaped those evils which have almost proved your destruction ; but

“ but as it is, let the past ever remain a warning to the future.” “ You see,” said she, turning towards the assembly, “ that Hypocrisy and Falsehood can by their art gloss over and hide the greatest deformity, so as to allure the most experienced ; but when once the *Spear of Truth* has discovered their wickedness, no other persuasions are requisite to induce every one to fly the paths that lead to their habitations.” She then returned the *Ring of Humility* again to the Knight, and was silent.

The next that appeared was a beautiful Fairy, whom the little Dwarf Diligence, still in company with the Prince Ozymandias and Miranda, knew to be his old Friend the Fairy Perseverance. She advanced, leading the Giant Impatience, and the wicked Fairy Delay, both bound in chains : “ Behold, “ my Sister,” said she to Benigna, “ Impatience and Delay— “ their power is now totally at an end ; and they only wait “ to undergo that punishment you shall think due to their “ crimes.” Benigna demanded what they could say in vindication of their actions. Delay, yawning and hesitating for some minutes, desired to have time given her, declaring she was unprepared, and begged at least to have a few weeks allowed for recollection ; but the Fairy only granted one hour, while she examined the rest.

Impatience

Impatience was quite opposite, entreating that his fate might be instantly fixed, as he mortally hated suspense.

Ingratitude, Envy, with Revenge and Malice, the Black Fairy, next appeared ; who, notwithstanding their efforts to the contrary, were drawn hither by the *Rod of Justice* ; but, instead of palliating their crimes, they approached venting the most bitter curses on the whole assembly, and endeavouring, by diabolical arts, to work them mischief ; but Virtue now triumphed over Vice : The *Spear of Truth* touched these ; but their outward deformity was so great, that it was impossible for it to be heightened.

The Giant Pride, with his beautiful wife Vanity, next approached. He was habited in a costly manner, and walked up and down full of his own importance, not deigning to speak to, or answer any one. The *Spear of Truth* had no sooner touched him, than his gaudy trappings vanished, and discovered his presuming, odious deformity, heightened by the mild lustre that beamed through the Temple of Virtue.

But Vanity, encouraged by False Hope, who among the rest was arrived, buoyed herself with the idea of gaining, by her beauty and address, the whole company to her interest ; and

and even Benigna herself: She, therefore, with great composure, drew nigh the throne; and turning to the assembly, " Gentlemen and Ladies," said she, " you view me at present a poor, helpless, distressed Woman, destitute of friends or protection, but those your bounty bestows; look well on me; behold youth, beauty, and wit, plead powerfully for me; look on me, and then say, does this abject state suit my person, rank, and accomplishments? Granting I have been imprudent, view the cause from whence it proceeded; behold Pride, my husband, what Woman dares disobey?" The whole assembly smiled at the insinuating address of Vanity, and could not help looking on her with a kind of partiality, which Benigna perceiving, " Your sophistry," said she, " however it may impose on weak minds, is not able to overcome Truth and Reason;" " No," continued she, " Pride is the slave to Vanity; nor would either exist but by the assistance of the other."

The little Man, False Hope, came last, who allured the Princess Matilda to the Floating Island of Disappointment. He made many specious pretences to vindicate his conduct, but in vain; and Benigna passed sentence on the several culprits as follows:

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She sentenced Impatience and Delay, well knowing the inveterate hatred they bore each other, to be bound closely together, till Impatience had quickened Delay, and Delay moderated Impatience ;—these were delivered to the care of the Hermit Repentance.

“ It is necessary,” said she to Pride and Vanity, “ that you should be parted, since each feeds the follies of the other ; ” “ Pride,” said she, “ shall be humbled ; ” accordingly she set marks in his forehead to this effect,—Behold the slave to Vanity. She then commanded Vanity to cast a chain round his neck, and lead him throughout the assembly, in token of his abject state.

Envy was presented with a looking-glass, which she was ever obliged to hold before her eyes ; it reflected all the riches, honour, prosperity, and virtue of this world : “ Thou wretch,” said Benigna, as she gave it, “ who lookest with a malignant eye on the happiness of thy fellow-creatures, continue to draw venom to thine own heart from the picture of that peace thou canst never enjoy.”

Malice became deaf and dumb, that she might no longer enjoy those senses she rendered so dangerous and noxious to

to society: She was then, with Ingratitude, Envy, Falsehood, Pride, and Hypocrisy, sentenced to the Den of Despair, to be eternally guarded by Ill Fame and Evil Conscience.

Luxury, who in general was treated with contempt after the destruction of Extravagance, was ordained to spend his days among swine, as best suited to his nature and disposition.

Few now remained to be disposed of, but they required some consideration; amongst these were Flattery, Vanity, and False Hope: Their crimes did not seem of that magnitude to merit the Den of Despair; and they were too dangerous to be set at large amongst mortals. The Fairy, therefore, after a short pause, waving her Wand, a number of little Sylphs appeared fluttering round her, who presently, at her command, formed a machine of such a delicate texture, that it would float with the greatest ease on the clouds, and at the same time buoy up a considerable weight: But the astonishment of the assembly is not to be conceived, when they perceived Benigna, by the help of this wonderful contrivance, launch Flattery, Vanity, and False Hope into the air, to be for ever the sport of that capricious element.

I have endeavoured, with the utmost diligence, to discover the name given to that surprising machine ; but have hitherto proved unsuccessful in my researches. Authors give various accounts ; but for my own part, I am confidently of opinion, that it must have been constructed nearly on the same principles with the famous Air Balloon ; which has afforded matter for such vast astonishment in these latter ages.

Thus Virtue triumphed, and Vice was punished.

The nuptials of the Princesses were celebrated with the greatest magnificence, all the good Fairies assisting at the ceremonies : Several days were spent in rejoicing, during which time the most elegant entertainments and diversions were displayed, to solace the guests of the Temple of Virtue ; after which the Princesses, endowed with the benefit of Benigna's good council, retired with their princely Knights to their respective governments.

But the good King and Queen, preferring retirement to the fatigue of government, and delighted with the serenity they felt in Benigna's company, determined to spend their days in peace with their Daughters Clementina and Matilda, in the Temple of Virtue ; having deputed the scepter of Babylon to their eldest Daughter Miranda and Prince Ozymandyas, who

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recommended the little Dwarf Diligence to the notice of their people ; and by his exertions, under the power of the *Distaff of Industry*, they soon repaired the damages of war ; and the blessings promised them by Benigna flourished under their protection.

The King and Queen lived to a great length of days, supremely happy in seeing their children the glory and admiration of the several kingdoms over which they reigned.

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